FRIENDS' NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

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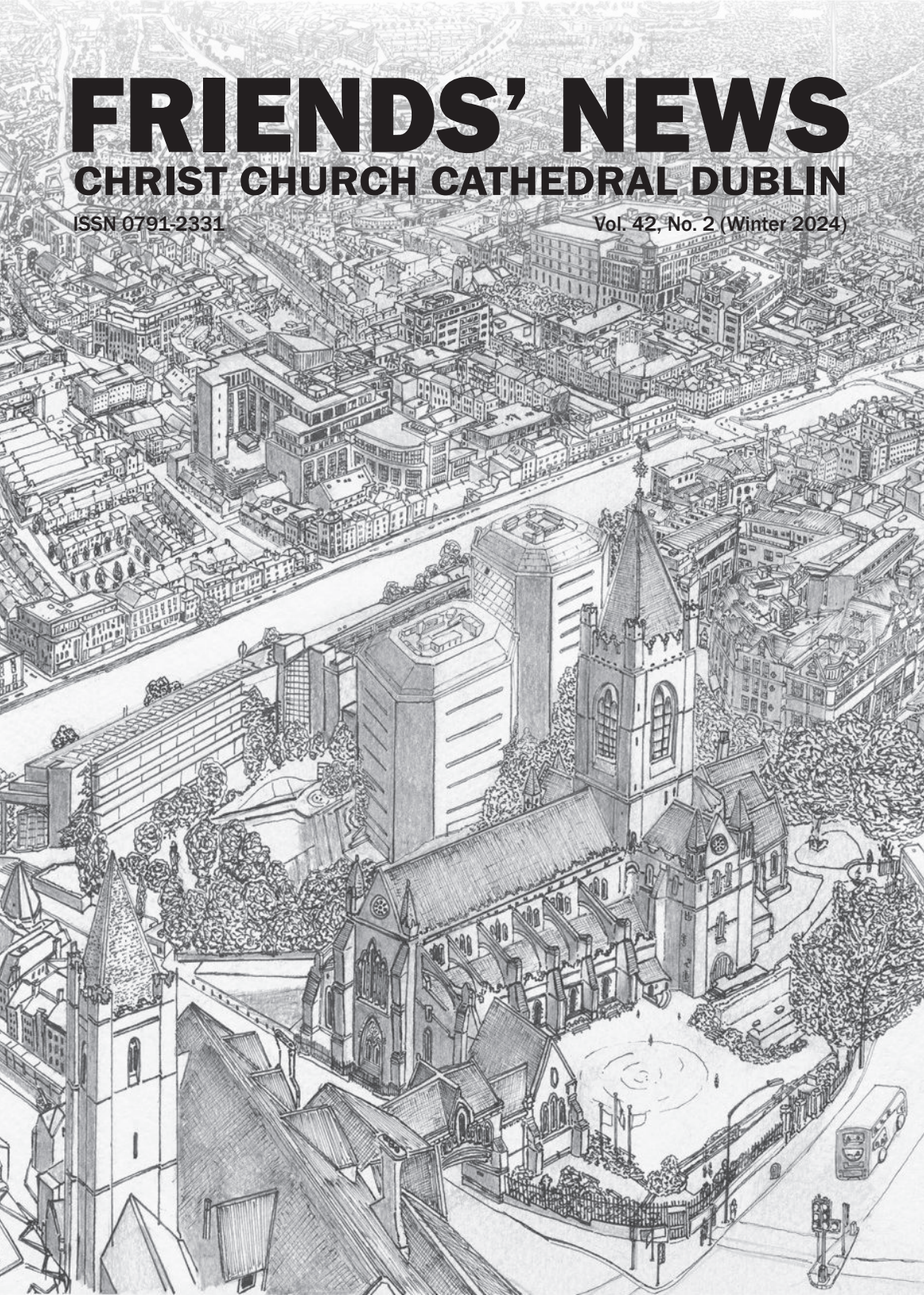

FRIENDS' COMMITTEE (2023–4)

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Friends' Committee (Elected at the Trinity Sunday AGM for 2024–5)	*Dean's nominees*	*Elected*
	Mr Brian Bradshaw	Ms Carol Casey
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	Dr Kenneth Milne	Mrs Iris Thompson
	Mr Alan Mulligan	Ms Bridie McLaughlin
	Ms Patricia Sweetman	Mr Tom Little
	Dr Stuart Kinsella	Mr Pierce Cullen
	Co-opted:	Mr Adrian Le Harivel (2024)

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of Christ Church cathedral support the work and worship of the cathedral and all are welcome to become members of the organisation.
Minimum subscriptions: within Ireland €25 or overseas €35.
Contributions of €250 and over may be tax refundable in Ireland and include five-year membership of the Friends. Friends are invited to give more if they can.

Membership applications to:	Ms Bridie McLaughlin, Assistant Secretary, The Chapter House, Christ Church Cathedral, Christchurch Place, Dublin 8.
Mobile:	087 790 6062
Email:	*cccdubfriends@gmail.com*

The opinions expressed in *Friends' News* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, who publish the journal.

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CATHEDRAL CHRONICLE
May–December 2024

MAY

Sat 4 May 2024	Lunchtime recital: Bergstadkoret, Røros, Norway.
Mon 6 May 2024	Lunchtime recital: Oslo Community Choir, Norway.
Wed 8 & Sat 11 May 2024	Culture Date with Dublin 8: Yoga in the nave (Sophie Gough).
Wed 8 & Thur 9 May 2024	Culture Date with Dublin 8: Treasures of Christ Church (Ruth Kenny).
Wed 8 May 2024	Organ recital: James Short, organist & assistant director of music.
Sat 11 May 2024	Culture Date with Dublin 8: Bell ringing tour.
Sat 11 & Sun 12 May 2024	Culture Date with Dublin 8: 'Rats and Rascals' tours (Tom O'Sullivan).
Sun 12 May 2024	Choral Eucharist & Evensong: Holy Comforter Choir, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.
Mon 13 May 2024	Lunchtime recital: Black Hills State University Concert Choir, Spearfish, South Dakota, USA.
Fri 17 May 2024	Gala Dinner: World Bar Conference attended by Helen McEntee, Minister for Justice, and the Right Honorable Dame Siobhan Keegan, Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, the Honorable Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell, Chief Justice of Ireland, and many judges.
Sat 18 May 2024	Lunchtime recital: Washburn University Chorus, Topeka, Kansas, USA.
Sun 19 May 2024	Choral Evensong & Confirmation.
Mons 20 & 27 May 2024	Spring Organ Recital Series: Simon Harden & Joseph Beech.
Trinity Sun 26 May 2024	Friends' Annual General Meeting & Evensong with Past Choristers.
Mon 27 May 2024	Lunchtime recital: Kingwood Chorale, Texas, USA.
Wed 29 May 2024	Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusaleum pray together in Christ Church*
Thur 30 May 2024	Corpus Christi Eucharist: Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

JUNE

Mondays in June 2024	Spring Organ Recital Series: J. Short, D. O'Shea, J. Oades, T. Little.
Sat 8 June 2024	Concert: Wrocław Baroque Ensemble, Poland.
Sun 9 June 2024	Dean Dermot Dunne celebrates 40th anniversary of his ordination.*
Sun 9 June 2024	Concert: Orchestras of St Agnes Community Centre for Music & the Arts (CCMA), and New Albany High School, Ohio, USA.
Sun 10 June 2024	Lunchtime recital: Our Saviour Lutheran Church Choir & Friends, St Charles Missouri, USA.
Thur 13 June 2024	Scaffolding goes up for restoration of chapter house.
Thur 13 June 2024	Concert: Ronald Reagan High School Choir, San Antonio, Texas, USA.
Fri 14 June 2024	Service of remembrance for loss of children: Saying Goodbye.
Sat 15 June 2024	Concert: St Louis Festival Choir comprising Manchester United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, St Louis County Community Chorus and St Louis Symphony Orchestra IN UNISON Chorus, Missouri, USA.

Christ Church Past Choristers' Association presents

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY
REFRESHMENTS FROM 7PM
CURTAINS AT 7.30PM

Your favourite film & theatre numbers brought to life by...

VOICE - JUDITH LYONS
PIANO - JUDITH GANNON

Free for members of the Past Choristers' Association
€10 for non-members payable on the door
Refreshments available for a donation

Mon 17 June 2024	Concert: Oregon Arts Orchestra, Portland, Oregon, USA, & New Dublin Voices.
Wed 19 June 2024	Video: Inspiring Angles – Treasures of Christ Church (Ruth Kenny).*
Thur 20 June 2024	Concerts: Pipeworks – Four in a Bar & Messiaen, Diptyque and Quartet for the end of time (and the bicentenary of the birth of the architect of the 1871–8 cathedral restoration, G.E. Street).
Sat 22 June 2024	Commissioning of Lay Readers.*
Sun 23 June 2024	Ordinations to the Priesthood.*
Tue 25 June 2024	Lunchtime recital: Bethlehem Baptist Choir, Minnesota, USA.
Wed 26 June 2024	Lunchtime recital: Hanford High School Choir & String Quintet, Richland, Washington, USA.
Wed 26 June 2024	Concert: Mona Shores High School Orchestra, Norton Shores, Michigan, USA.
Fri 28 June 2024	Lunchtime recital: Cetto Chamber Singers, Second Baptist Church, Suffield, Connecticut, Massachusetts, USA, & Lambay Singers of Swords.
Fri 28 June 2024	Community Soirée: Cathedral Choirs Summer & reception.*
Sat 29 June 2024	Concert: National Symphony Chorus 'A cappella'.
Sun 30 June 2024	Choral Evensong for Pride.*
	JULY
Tue 2 July 2024	Lunchtime recital: Central Texas Choral Society & Fairfax Choral Society Symphonic Chorus, Virginia, USA.
Wed 3 July 2024	Lunchtime recital: West University Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, Houston, Texas, USA.
Thur 4 July 2024	Concert: St Agnes CCMA Summer Strings, Crumlin.
Fri 5 July 2024	Lunchtime recital: Westchester Children's Chorus, New York, USA.
Sun 7 July 2024	Choral Eucharist and Evensong sung by RBS Europa Choir.
Thur 11 July 2024	Organ recital: Gary Cobb, Professor Emeritus of Music, Seaver College, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California.
Fri 12 July 2024	Lunchtime recital: Amabile Youth Singers & Prima, London, Ontario, Canada.
Sun 14 July 2024	Choral Eucharist sung by the choir of St Paul's Church, Glenageary.
Sun 14 July 2024	Quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles rung on front 6 of back 10 of middle 12, conducted by Gary McGuire.
Thurs 25 – Sat 27 July 2024	Liberties Festival: Bell ringing experience.
Fri 26 July2024	Friends of National Gallery of Ireland tour of the cathedral portraits (Adrian Le Harivel).
Sat 27 July 2024	Quarter Peal of 1440 Plain Bob Sixteen (first at Christ Church on more than 10 bells) rung by the visiting Friends of Derick Obergene Society.
Sun 28 July 2024	Choral Evensong sung by Frideswide Voices (Cathedral Girls' Choir) and Clerks of Christ Church, Oxford.
Tue 30 July 2024	Lunchtime recital: St Andrew's United Church choir, Chatham, Ontario, Canada.
Wed 31 July 2024	Choral Evensong sung by Frideswide Voices & Clerks, Christ Church, Oxford.

NO HOMES TO GO TO:

DUBLIN CHARITIES & HOMELESSNESS, 1790-2025

Tuesday lectures in February 2025 @ 13.10
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY
Serving the poor of Dublin since 1790:
The Sick & Indigent Roomkeepers Society
Felix Larkin (Historian & Society Chairman, 2012-16)

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY
The poor you will always have with you?
A brief history of Dublin's Mendicity Institution
Eimhin Walsh (Historian & Institution Director, 2015-19)

TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY
Challenging homeless, changing lives:
Focus Ireland & 40 years of homelessness
Pat Dennigan (CEO of Focus Ireland)

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY
Ireland's housing crisis: What now? What next?
Ronan Lyons (Associate Professor in Economics, TCD)

ADMISSION FREE. ALL WELCOME.

The chapter house lecture room is unfortunately only accessible by stairs.

Supported by the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
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AUGUST

Thur 1 Aug 2024	Choral Evensong sung by Frideswide Voices & Clerks, Christ Church, Oxford.
Sat 3 Aug 2024	Wedding of Rebecca MacCann & Stephen Tennant Humphreys, officiated by the Right Revd Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross.
Sat 17 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: Bell ringing tour.
Sat 17 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: Stained glass window workshop.
Sat 17 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: Christ Church & Normandy Connections (Charline Zachariades).
Mon 19 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: Christ Church, Brazil & Portugal Connections (Kelly Tavolassi).
Tue 20 & Thur 22 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: 'Rats & Rascals' tours (Tom O'Sullivan).
Wed 21 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: The lost alleys of Christ Church (Ruth Kenny).
Fri 23 Aug 2024	Friends outing: St Audoen's Church & Heritage Centre.
Fri 23 & Sat 24 Aug 2024	Heritage Week: Bell ringing tours.
Sat 24–Thur 29 Aug 2024	Cathedral Choir tour to Southwark Cathedral, London & York Minster.

SEPTEMBER

Sun 1 Sept 2024	Choral Eucharist and Evensong (celebrating 175 years of the Diocesan Girls' School) sung by the cathedral's Past Choristers.
Sat 7 Sept 2024	Lunchtime recital: Hvaler Trivselkor, Vesterøy, Norway.
Sun 8 Sept 2024	Quarter peal of 1260 Doubles (2 methods: 60 Christ Church Dublin Differential Doubles and 1200 Plain Bob Doubles) in memory of George Gogan, a member of the Christ Church Society of Change Ringers.
Mon 9 Sept 2024	Video: Inspiring Angles– Music builds up Christ Church's local connections (Tom Little).*
Sat 14 Sept 2024	Belfry: Eastern District meeting and Taylor Cup won by team captained by Christ Church ringer, Vyvyenne Chamberlain.
Sun 15 Sept 2024	Choral Evensong & installation of the Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff as dean's vicar and chapter clerk.*
Thur 19 Sept 2024	Access audit focus group assess cathedral's accessibility for visitors.*
Thur 19 Sept 2024	Friends: Morning tour to Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre.
Thur 19 Sept 2024	Evening Conversation: Friends of Wexford Opera Festival with Romanian-Irish soprano, Ioana Pipelea, & the cathedral community.
Fri 20 Sept 2024	Culture Night (the ninth annual): Bell ringing tours & self-guiding tours.
Sat 21 Sept 2024	Workshop: Papermaking with Tunde Toth.
Sat 21 Sept 2024	Service: Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council 10th anniversary.*
Fri 27 Sept 2024	Gala Dinner: Weir & Sons showcasing the 2024 Rolex collection.
Sat 28 Sept 2024	Church of Ireland Historical Society meeting: Michael O'Neill, Naomi McAreavy, Danielle Clarke and Ian d'Alton.
Sat 28 Sept 2024	Sept Social organised by the Friends+.
Sun 29 Sept 2024	Choral Eucharist with Confirmations.

A view of the nave from the south transept, looking at Dublinia.

OCTOBER

Fri 4 Oct 2024	Filming: 'How to Get to Heaven from Belfast'.
Sat 5 Oct 2024	Symposium: Friends of Medieval Dublin at TCD: Papers by Jesse Harrington on St Laurence O'Toole & Patrick Wallace on Wood Quay.
Sun 6 Oct 2024	Quarter peal of 1260 Doubles (two methods: 240 Grandsire (Morris's 240) and 1020 Plain Bob Doubles) rung to congratulate steeple keeper David Hogan & Annia on the birth of their son Timothy.
Mon 7 Oct 2024	Lunchtime book launch: Edel Bhreathnach, *Monasticism in Ireland, AD 900–1250* (Four Courts Press) by Janet Burton, Professor of Medieval History, University of Wales Trinity Saint David.
Wed 9 Oct 2024	Dublin Festival of History lunchtime lecture: Greg Sullivan, 'Contested histories: The sculpture of Christ Church cathedral re-examined.
Sat 12 Oct 2024	Open House Junior: Children's stained glass workshop.
Sun 13 Oct 2024	Choral Evensong for the Stanford Festival 2024.
Thur 17 Oct 2024	Service: Annual diocesan service for primary and junior schools.*
Fri 18 Oct 2024	Friends' outing: Chapterhouse of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7.
Fri 18 & Sun 20 Oct 2024	Open House: Architectural tour of cathedral (Janice Stewart).
Fri 18 Oct 2024	Lunchtime recital: Via Vokal, Hellerud, Oslo, Norway.
Sat 19 Oct 2024	Mother's Union: All Ireland Council and dedication of cathedral Lady chapel as the new Mothers' Union chapel.
Sat 19 Oct 2024	Blessing of marriage vows of Jannetje van Leeuwen and Paul O'Mahony sung by the choir of All Saint's Grangegorman.
Sun 20 Oct 2024	Concert: The High Hopes Choir 10 year celebrations with Rejoice Gospel Choir, SUSO Youth Choir, Irish singer songwriter Eimear Crehan.
Sun 27 Oct 2024	Choral Matins & afternoon Choral Eucharist, due to Dublin Marathon.

NOVEMBER

Sat 2 Nov 2024	Concert: Carlow Choral Society, London Dockland Singers & Marcel Sinfonia – 'In Paradisum'.
Tuesdays in Nov 2024	Lunchtime lectures: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924): Composer, conductor, professor – David O'Shea, Adèle Commins, Paul Rodmell & Jeremy Dibble.*
Thursdays in Nov 2024	Dublinia Autumn lunchtime lectures: Emer Kavanagh (Magic); Patrick Herbage & Mark Louth (Viking women); Michael Potterton (Anglo-Norman invasion) & Linzi Simpson (Viking burials).
Sun 10 Nov 2024	Remembrance Sunday – Evening Requiem for Ian Keatley.
Sun 10 Nov 2024	Remembrance Sunday – Evening Armenian service (moved to Christ Church, Taney).*
Thur 21 Nov 2024	Friends outing: Rathfarnham Castle.
Thur 21 Nov 2024	Service of Life: De Paul.
Sat 23 Nov 2024	Sankta Lucia Concert by Adolf Fredriks Choir, Stockholm, Sweden.
Tue 29 Nov 2024	Talk: Deck the Hall – Composer and conductor, Andrew Gant, explores the stories of our favourite Christmas carols.

DECEMBER

Sun 1 Dec 2024	Advent procession.
Wed 4 Dec 2024	Shoppers' Carols: Belvedere College.
Thur 5 Dec 2024	Concert: St Mary's College Singers for AidLink.
Fri 6 Dec 2024	Concert: Mount Sackville Secondary School 160th anniversary.
Sat 7 Dec 2024	Concert: New Dublin Voices.
Tue 10 Dec 2024	Service: PEATA Therapy Dogs lunchtime Carols.
Tue 10 Dec 2024	Evening 'Schools Singing' concert (private).
Wed 11 Dec 2024	Concerts: Choir of Christ Church Cathedral.
Thur 12 Dec 2024	Concerts: Choir of Christ Church Cathedral with crypt reception between.
Fri 13 Dec 2024	Shoppers' Carols: Eureka Kells.
Fri 13 Dec 2024	Concert: London Concertante Viennese Christmas.
Sat 14 Dec 2024	Wreath making workshops.
Sun 15 Dec 2024	Concert: Cathedral Community Chorus – A Christmas Fantasia.
Mon 16 Dec 2024	Shoppers' Carols: Mount Carmel.
Tue 17 Dec 2024	Concert: Focus Ireland & Iarnród Éireann: Folk & Traditional Music.
Fri 20 Dec 2024	Nativity Service: St Catherine's National School (private).
Fri 20 Dec 2024	Concert: Christmas with Dublin Youth Choir.
Sat 21 Dec 2024	Concert: Noël with Mornington Singers.
Sun 22 Dec 2024	Quarter peal of 1260 Christ Church Dublin Differential Doubles, conducted by composer Gary McGuire.
Sun 22 Dec 2024	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.
Christmas Eve 2024	Festal Eucharist.
Christmas Day 2024	Festal Eucharist.
St Stephen's Day 2024	Cathedral closed.

Sat 28 Dec 2024	Wedding: Sophie Gough & Johnny Kennedy. *Warmest congratulations from staff and friends to our colleague and her fiancé on their Christmas marriage at the cathedral.*
New Year's Eve 31 Dec 2024	Lunchtime recital: Pure Sound Youth Choir, Houston, Texas.
New Year's Eve 31 Dec 2024	Bell ringers ringing out the Old and ringing in the New Year.

* *Noted on Dublin & Glendalough website by Lynn Glanville, Diocesan Communications Officer.*

FORTHCOMING 2025

New Year's Day, 1 Jan 2025	Lunchtime recital: Queensbury High School Madrigal Singers.
Epiphany, Sun 5 Jan 2025	Choral Eucharist & Evensong for Feast of Epiphany (transferred).
Mon 6 – Wed 8 Jan 2025	Cathedral closed.
Mon 13 – Mon 27 Jan 2025	Exhibition: From Medieval to Digital (Ballyfermot College of Further Education)
Fri 31 Jan 2025	Concert: A night at the movies with Judith Lyons (soprano) & Judith Gannon (piano).
Tuesdays in Feb 2025	Lunchtime lectures: Dublin charities & homelessness, 1790–2025.
Thur 20 & 27 Feb 2025	Dublinia Lunchtime Lectures: St Michael's & Synod Hall.
Mon 3 Mar	Past Choristers' crypt quiz night.
Thur 6 Mar 2025	Dublinia Lunchtime Lectures: Liberties weaving.
Fri 28 Mar 2025	Afternoon lecture: 'Marking time'.
Mondays in Apr 2025	Past Choristers' Pride & Prejudice screening.
Fri 4, 11 & 25 Apr 2025	Afternoon lectures: 'Marking time'.

Thanks to Shawn Talbot, Senior Tourism & Events Coordinator & Sophie Gough, Tourism, Events and Marketing Officer.

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

CHORAL

Eucharist:	Sunday (11.00)
Evensong:	Sunday (15.30), Tuesday & Thursday (18.00)

SAID

Morning Prayer:	Monday–Friday (10.00)
Evening Prayer:	Monday, Wednesday and Friday (17.00)
Midday Eucharist:	Monday–Friday (12.45)

Ministry of Healing Eucharist

Prayers for wholeness and healing with the laying on of hands takes place during the Thursday celebrations of the Eucharist.

Celtic Eucharist

This is celebrated at the lunchtime Eucharist on the first Friday of every month.

All services are live-streamed on the cathedral website.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dr Stuart Kinsella

The most striking detail of *Friends' News* is the sheer number of activities which take place at the cathedral, noted in this edition by both our dean and CEO, and listed in our cathedral chronicle. It accounts to some extent for both the delay in producing, and the size, of our Winter edition, apart from the usual excuses of sickness, travel and that small matter of Christmas, and our Galway-based designer's power outages from Storm Éowyn, for all of which, apologies.

I am most grateful to the dean for his customary overview and to the new dean's vicar (about whose historical position there is also a survey) for her contribution. Our CEO and Retail manager have also generously related some of the often unappreciated side of keeping the cathedral running behind the scenes. Talented artist and staff member Sam Boal has also kindly allowed us to reproduce his work for the cover, as well as writing about his work.

The burgeoning activity of the music department has a number of reports. First, from Tom Little on the cathedral choir's tour to Southwark (sadly just two days after the funeral of Ian Keatley, who was director of music there after his time at Christ Church in Dublin) and York Minster. To this is appended news of organists and compositions; profiles of four new members appointed to the cathedral choir this year: Iseult, Matthew, Ella and Caitríona, as well as updates on the community chorus and engagement with schools from Twm Watkins. Lesley-Anne Carey supplies the latest from the expanding Past Choristers' Association, to which is also added news of choral movements of recent choir members. The death of Ian Keatley, former director of music at Christ Church (2012–19) who had moved to the same position at Southwark, was a shock to everyone at the tragically young age of 42, and the former dean of Southwark, Andrew Nunn, has kindly allowed his sermon delivered at Ian's funeral at St George's in Belfast to be reproduced.

From the tower, ringing master Ray Cregan briefs us on activity in the cathedral and beyond, while Nicole Lanphier, a recent recruit, recounts her campanological experiences. Ruth Kenny brings us up to date with the latest educational innovations, while tour guide, Kelly Tavolassi, reports on a trip to London and Canterbury with her cathedral colleagues. The editor reports on historical activity at the cathedral, which is followed by three reports on Friends' outings: new appointee to the Friends' committee, Adrian Le Harivel, reports on the National Gallery of Ireland and forthcoming outings; Jean Finch reports on St Audoen's and Dalkey Castle, and Kenneth Milne recounts a visit to St Mary's chapter house. The Friends+ (now renamed the Community of St Laurence) organised a successful September Social in the crypt which Matthew Zaradich relates, while Aonghus Dwane recalls Christ Church's relationship with the Irish language over past years. Lastly, a summary of cathedral personnel helps to orient Friends and congregation alike to the cathedral's rich ecosystem. Particular thanks to all who have contributed text and photographs.

FROM THE DEAN

The Very Revd Dermot Dunne

DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH

It is a bit of a truism, but the cathedral never stands still. There is always something happening in its precincts or among its personnel. Over the past year we have seen a lot of changes both to the fabric and with people leaving whilst others have joined our ranks.

If you have been around the cathedral in the last while you will have noticed a lot of scaffolding and building works around the chapterhouse. Thanks to a grant from the Dublin City Council's built heritage fund we were able to secure nearly €200,000 for the repointing of the stonework and the restoration of some of its windows. Of course the cathedral had to match-fund the grant by an equal amount. This meant that we managed to fund a restoration cost of over €400,000 with a €200,000 input from the cathedral. This is why it is very important to us that we have a reserve fund in place to avail of all grants that are in place for heritage buildings like the cathedral.

The next major building project will be the restoration of the cathedral railings and the completion of the cathedral grounds' redevelopment and restoration at a total cost of over €2 million. Presently we are in discussion with Dublin City Council to secure a €1 million grant for the project. We will need to source the other million from other sources.

Two members of the chapter have resigned their canonry. Roland Heaney, the most senior member of the chapter decided it was time to leave the chapter to concentrate on projects within his parish. Roland was a loyal and committed servant of the cathedral who faithfully carried out his residencies in the cathedral in an efficient and consistent way. He was appointed in 2005 and reached the most senior position among his colleague canons. Canon Arthur Barrett has left the chapter as well, having been appointed to the incumbency of Killanne and Killegney. Arthur was just a short time with us as a canon and we wish him the very best in his new post.

Scaffolding around the chapterhouse during autumn work on the roof, walls, windows and door.

We welcomed Lindsay Llewellyn MacDuff to her new role as dean's vicar. Lindsay and her husband Douglas have well settled in by now to their home at the old schoolhouse in Monkstown. The parish of Monkstown restored the upper floor of the school to a high spec apartment. Both Lindsay and Douglas are very happy in their new abode. Lindsay has already involved herself in the life of the cathedral and is beginning to engage in a lot of outreach projects whilst at the same time maintaining full coverage of all services within the cathedral. Lindsay is proving an enormous help to me in her pastoral care of visitors, staff and the regular congregation.

The Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff, the new dean's vicar, with her husband, Doug, the dean, Canon Prof. Anne Lodge, and the precentor, Canon Roy Byrne.

Recently we bid a sad farewell to Helen Martin who died on 20 October as a result of a severe stroke. She was an active member of our congregation having volunteered in the cathedral shop and also served on the cathedral Friends' committee as a dean's nominee. Helen is survived by her only daughter Sarah and her partner, Paul, and their children Alexander and Antonia. We extend our deepest sympathies to Sarah on the loss of her mother.

The late Helen Martin in 2013 with her grandson, Alexander.

As you may know, the cathedral will celebrate its millennium in 2028. In preparation for this the cathedral is at the early stages of development of a fundraising campaign to raise €10 million. The target of the fundraising will be split into five areas which include: the installation of a new organ, the restoration of the clerestory windows on the south side of the cathedral, the restoration of the perimeter railings, the provision of a much needed lift between the crypt and the cathedral nave, and

the development of the final stage of the cathedral grounds project. A fundraising committee will be convened with the help of a professional fundraising company who will research the giving market and develop a tailor-made fundraising strategy for the cathedral. In tandem with a fundraising committee there is already established a millennium committee which is charged with developing events and publicity surrounding the significant milestone the cathedral passes in 2028.

Finally it is with sadness that I reflect on the untimely death of our former director of music, Ian Keatley. Ian was appointed to the post in a time when the music life of the cathedral was in a shambles. Through his careful planning and diligent management of the cathedral choir and music he developed a strong music department and a cohesive choir. We are grateful to Ian for the talent he shared in the cathedral and for handing over a music department that was secure and solid and upon which our present director of music developed. As we remember Ian we also pray for his parents and siblings who are devastated at the loss so young of a dear son and brother. We shall remember them in our prayers and hold them fondly in our thoughts. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

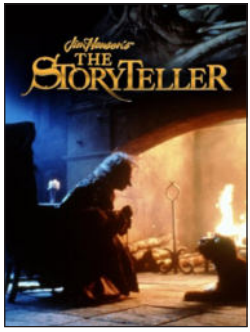
The late Ian Keatley in 2015 for the 20th anniversary of the Cathedral Girls' Choir, with Anthea Seager (this year appointed the new chair of the Past Choristers).

THE NEW DEAN'S VICAR WRITES

Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff
DEAN'S VICAR & CHAPTER CLERK

One of the penalties of getting a new job is a necessity of describing and explaining myself very often. I am very bad at this so I thought I might be able to get away with, instead, ruminating a little on one of my pet subjects.

I like stories. I like true stories, I like apocryphal stories, I like wildly improbable stories and I like stories that are straight fiction. This means I have a fondness for history, but also hagiographies, who-dunnits and shaggy dog stories. To quote the children's puppet series, 'When people told themselves their past with stories, explained their present with stories, foretold the future with stories, the best place by the fire was kept for ... The Storyteller.'



Jim Henson's The Storyteller.

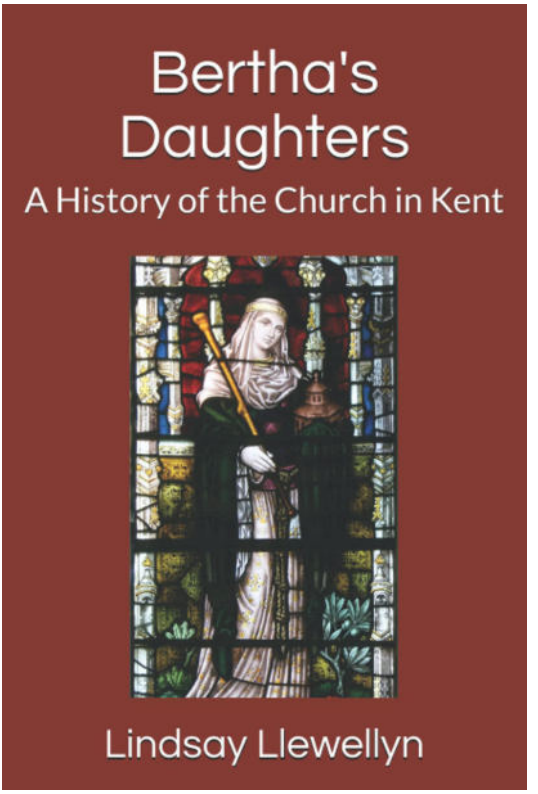
The Dragon and the virgin and martyr, St Margaret (275–304), drawn by Nicolas Bazin (1690) after Raphael.

This is because in our stories is our truth – or, at least, our priorities / emphases / aspirations. For example, when we examine our horror stories, it tells us something about our cultural understanding of the nature of evil. It is striking, for example, that the monsters in our old fairy stories are always vanquished, but very rarely are, not comprehensively, in our modern horror stories. Interestingly, in our hagiographies, the Dragon is *sometimes* vanquished and sometimes *tamed*.

Similarly, the way we record our history is a record of our present priorities. It is noticeable, for example, that there is very little record kept of women's religious houses between the 9th and 13th centuries – not a priority – but instead we have numerous tales building from at least the 5th century, and growing in popularity, of young women fleeing forced marriages, and excessively ardent male enthusiasm, into Christian communities (see, for example, Brigid). So, while the *historians* were not interested in how women were organising themselves, *communities* had a memory of women's spaces, where women were able to be simply be themselves, daughters of God, sisters of Christ, without having to navigate the male gaze.

The beauty of an organisation such as the Friends, is that it is part of the narrative about the life of the cathedral. In the talks and histories shared, but also in the community gathered, there is a living history marking the story of this cathedral not only in bricks, or even her mission, but as part of the life of Dublin.

One thing I will add about my own self, by way a footnote, is to say that if you also like stories and history and hagiographies, I have written a whole book of them - designed to be easy on the brain, consumable in dainty bites. It is only available on Amazon, being insufficiently commercial, but if you were minded to, you could find it under the title of *Bertha's Daughters* and under my maiden name, Lindsay Llewellyn.



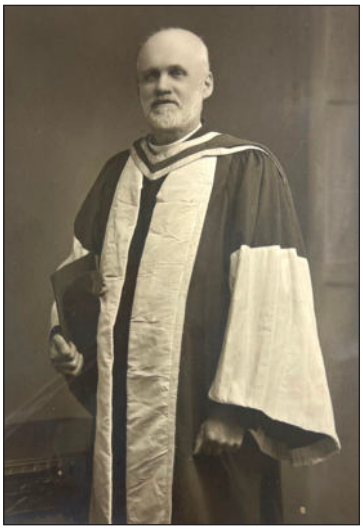
Lindsay studied in Kent, trained in Wales and was ordained deacon in 1999. She has served sea-side and rural parishes, as well as chaplaincies to HM Prison Littlehey (Ely) and to the bishop of Rochester (2014-22) when she was the diocesan worship development advisor and a tutor in Sacramental Theology at St Augustine College of Theology. Before coming to Dublin, she was associate priest to the High Weald churches in Chiddingstone. She has written two fantasy novels in the 'Priest's Tale' series and the aforementioned history of Kent.

A HISTORY OF DEAN'S VICARS AT CHRIST CHURCH

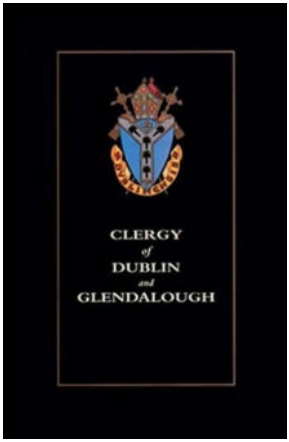
Dr Stuart Kinsella
RESEARCH ADVISOR & EDITOR OF *FRIENDS' NEWS*

NEW DEAN'S VICAR

With the appointment of the Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff to the position of dean's vicar (and chapter clerk) in September, it may be of some interest to note the history of the position of dean's vicar at Christ Church. Lindsay is the sixth to hold the position since it was re-inaugurated by Dean John Paterson in 1999, her predecessors being Dermot Dunne (1999–2001), Mark Gardner (2001–10), Garth Bunting (2010–16, residential priest vicar), Abigail Sines (2016–22) and Edwin Aiken (2022–4). In an earlier incarnation however, the position dates back to the Reformation and, although its subsequent use is somewhat inconsistent, the title appears to have been in continuous use from at least 1703 to about 1859.



Canon James Blennerhassett Leslie (1865–1952).



HISTORIOGRAPHY

The foundation for writing about dean's vicars, who were often members of the vicars choral of both Dublin's two Church of Ireland cathedrals, was laid by two clerics who compiled 'fasti', that is registers or compilations of records, in this case of individuals associated with the two ecclesiastical institutions. Professor H.J. Lawlor, professor of ecclesiastical history at TCD (1898–1933), and precentor(1902–24) and then dean of St Patrick's (1924–33), published *The fasti of St Patrick's, Dublin* in 1930, while around 1939, the author of the majority of the lists of clergy in the Church of Ireland, Canon J.B. Leslie, rector of Kilsaran in Armagh diocese (1891–1951), wrote a 'Fasti of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin' (RCB 61/2/2).

This remains in an unpublished typescript – although material from it was included in the substantial 1,209 page *Clergy of Dublin and Glendalough*, revised, edited and updated by W.J.R. Wallace in 2001. Barra

Boydell's research on Christ Church is a further source for the vicars choral, while Paul Arbuthnot's 2007 TCD M.Litt. on 19th century music in the Dublin cathedrals (published in 2013) along with David O'Shea's 2018 TCD Ph.D. study of the chapel royal published this year, have further expanded our knowledge, but there is a great deal of scope for further research and consolidation of earlier work.

St Michael's church in the late C17.

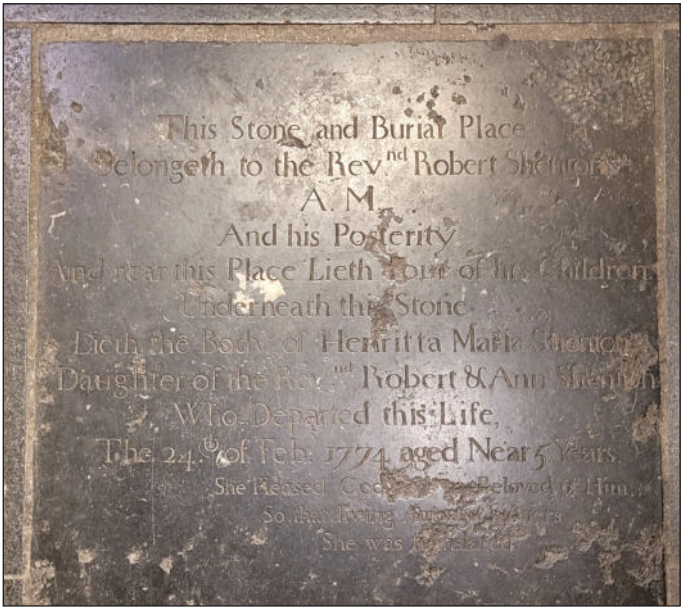
CONSTITUTION

The subject is also linked to the evolving constitution of the cathedral, again under review at present as the cathedral seeks to become an incorporated body. One of few people to have written on the cathedral's constitution was H.A. Boyd, who wrote a series of articles on 'The cathedral system in Ireland' in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* (1946–7), which fed into a TCD B.Litt. in 1950. He also wrote the first part of an unfinished 'History of the capitular constitution of the cathedral of the Holy Trinity' in the *Christ Church Yearbook* (1952). Noel Houlden later compiled the cathedral's constitution from the records of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 1997, which were put online in 2003 by Richard Griffiths (*http://tiac.eu/cccdub-no1/dean/board/constitution/constitution.html*), and as part of the incorporation process, the diocesan chancellor, Ciarán Toland has produced a consolidated constitution and statutes for the cathedral (*https://christchurchcathedral.ie/governance*).

REFORMATION TO RESTORATION

The position of dean's vicar finds its origins in the establishment of the vicars choral at the Reformation, ultimately based on the constitution of the neighbouring cathedral of St Patrick's (unusually adopting an Old Foundation constitution for a New Foundation, i.e. a former monastic cathedral priory of Augustinian canons regular). A document from 1539 declared that 'John Curragh, priest, the first of the vicars choral, be sub-dean and have a place in the chapter and a voice in the election of archbishop and dean, and that the parish church of St Michael, Dublin, now erected into a prebendal church, with its tithes, be assigned to him' (*Christ Church Deeds*, no. 431). This constitutional arrangement of the vicars choral having a place on the chapter did not last, but the association with St Michael's would occur again. After a constitutional false start at the cathedral in 1539, Curragh or Corragh became the first dean's vicar (1541–6). The second noted is Christopher More (c.1556–60), who went on to become precentor. In 1574, Leslie observed that the chapter specifically

ordered 'that the parson of St Michael's be Dean's Vicar'. Whether this was followed strictly is difficult to ascertain from the records. Thomas Lowe appears to have been dean's vicar of both Christ Church (1638) and St Patrick's (1639), and a number of the Christ Church vicars choral were also dean's vicars of other cathedrals: Leonard Cotton at St Patrick's (1642–3) and the wonderfully named Peregrine Darling at Cashel in 1661. According to Leslie's 'Fasti', there is only one named dean's vicar of Christ Church between 1560 and 1751, namely Adam Elliot, curate of St Audoen's (1675), a vicar choral and minor canon of St Patrick's (1676–9) and then additionally dean's vicar of Christ Church (1679). That Leslie's work is in need of refinement however is shown by the fact that Barra Boydell has additionally identified the Cambridge-educated, Richard Hosier, as dean's vicar of Christ Church (1661–7) and vicar choral and minor canon of St Patrick's (1660–77 & 1669–77).



Memorial to the Revd Robert Shenton and his family.

CENTURIES OF DEAN'S VICARS

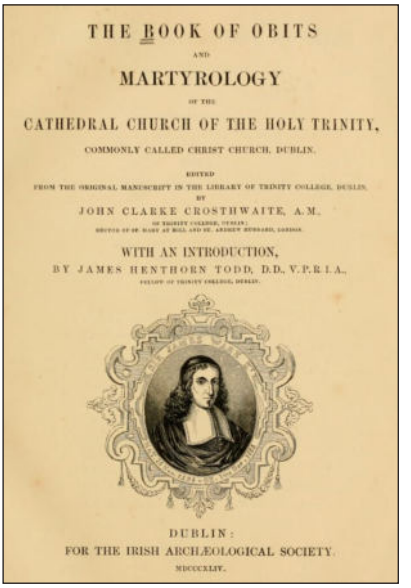
A period of great consistency in terms of the appointment of dean's vicars began with John Worrall, who was, for the extraordinary length of 43 years, dean's vicar (1703–46). Beginning as a choirboy at Christ Church from 1676/7, aged 10/11, he went on to become a stipendiary and a vicar choral at St Patrick's (1688–1748) and at Christ Church (1694–1751), by which time he was ordained, rising to become dean's vicar in 1703, and eventually master of the boys at both cathedrals, positions he held until his retirement in 1746. This pattern of having people associated with the cathedral for decades added considerable stability to the institution.

A long-standing loyalty to the cathedral was also displayed by William Jones, from Wales and educated at TCD, a vicar choral at both St Patrick's (1710–45) and Christ Church (1719–51), who at the end of his career was appointed dean's vicar for three years (1751–3). He was succeeded by another vicar choral of the two cathedrals, Samuel Lake, vicar choral of St Patrick's (1751–6) and dean's vicar of Christ Church (1753–6). On his death, Robert Shenton, a former chorister and lay clerk at Magdalen College, Oxford and a vicar choral at Hereford, became dean's vicar for an impressive 41 years (1757–98), while also being a vicar choral at St Patrick's (1758–98). Barra Boydell notes him as a prolific composer of twenty anthems and

four services in the solo-cantata style of Maurice Greene, influenced by G.F. Händel. During the 1798 rebellion, Shenton was thrown into a canal by a mob (noted in *Friends' News*, Spring 2002 & Autumn 2003), and although he sustained no injuries, the 70-year old man died suddenly in June that year. A memorial slab survives to his memory in the north aisle of the crypt, restored by Mark Bowyer, former cathedral administrator (2000–4), and the Friends in 2003.

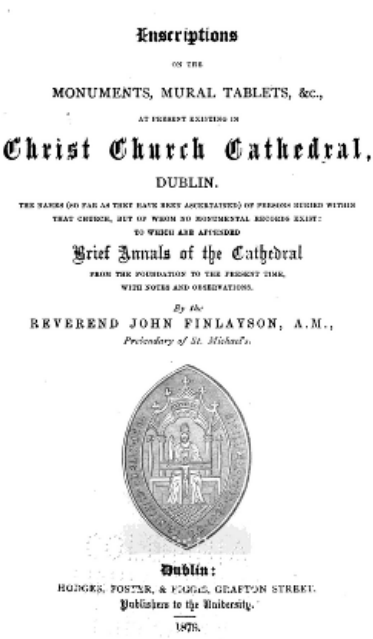
As is clear from the various musical roles held by the dean's vicars, e.g. Hosier, Worrall and Shenton, the role was a choral one, and John Jebb, junior noted that the prayers and litany chanted by the dean's vicar with harmonised responses peculiar to Dublin which were sung up until around 1826, were 'solemn and devotional in the highest degree'. This would have been sung by John Bayley, dean's vicar (1798–1828) again for a remarkable total of 30 years. Over the centuries, as the music became more challenging, the originally clerical choir gradually appointed more lay members, until eventually the lay vicars choral greatly outnumbered the clerical. In a similar manner, the running of the cathedral by a chapter ceased with the establishment of a cathedral board in the 1870s which has had equal clerical and lay members ever since.

By the nineteenth-century a pattern had evolved whereby the two most senior clerical vicars were also teachers in the school, a pattern which survived through Disestablishment, and which also accounted for a number of rather erudite clerics. Richard Barton was another man long associated with Christ Church as deputy vicar choral (1823–8), dean's vicar (1828–37), prebendary of St Michael's (1837–43), of St John's (1843–4), then as


THE BOOK OF OBITS
AND
MARTYROLOGY
OF THE
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,
COMMONLY CALLED CHRIST CHURCH, DUBLIN.
EDITED
FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE LIBRARY OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,
BY
JOHN CLARKE CROSTHWAITE, A.M.
WITH AN INTRODUCTION,
BY JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D.D., V.P.R.I.A.
DUBLIN:
FOR THE IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
MDCCCXLIV.

honorary dean's vicar (1844–6) and precentor (1846–77).

Probably one of the most scholarly to hold the dean's vicar position was John Clarke Crosthwaite, successively precentor's vicar and then at least by 1841, dean's vicar (1833–44), who also composed, and was master of the boys (1834–7). He is remembered particularly for his 1844 edition of the cathedral's book of obits and martyrology for which James Henthorn Todd wrote an introduction, but was also editor of the *Irish Ecclesiastical Journal* (1841–4), which Todd had founded in 1840. Crosthwaite even married Todd's sister Elizabeth Hawkes – both were the children of C.H. Todd, professor of anatomy at the RCSI. In 1844, he moved to London as rector of the united parishes of St Mary at Hill and St Andrew Hubbard where he remained until his death in 1874. His sometime colleague at Christ Church, George de Butts, was precentor's vicar (1837–43) but, at St Patrick's, was dean's vicar (1833) and a minor canon (1843–77),



Inscriptions

ON THE

MONUMENTS, MURAL TABLETS, &c.,

AT PRESENT EXISTING IN

Christ Church Cathedral,

DUBLIN.

THE NAMES (SO FAR AS THEY HAVE BEEN ASCERTAINED) OF PERSONS BURIED WITHIN THAT CHURCH, BUT OF WHOM NO MONUMENTAL RECORDS EXIST:

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED

Brief Annals of the Cathedral

FROM THE FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME,

WITH NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

By the

REVEREND JOHN FINLAYSON, A.M.,

Prebendary of St. Michael's.

Dublin:

HODGES, FOSTER, & FIGGIS, GRAFTON STREET.

Publishers to the University.

1878.

demonstrating once again the long and often fruitful entanglement of the two cathedrals. After Crosthwaite, Richard Barton appears to have reassumed the position of dean's vicar in an honorary capacity, but it is unclear for how long he held the position. John Finlayson was already a reader and master of the cathedral grammar school (1837–52), and was appointed precentor's vicar (1844–76), after which he became the prebendary of St Michael's. He also produced a number of publications of note including *The general confession, responses, and Litany set to music* (1843), *A collection of anthems* (1852) and *Inscriptions on the monuments, mural tablets etc. at present existing in Christ Church* (1878).

The last we hear of a dean's vicar before 1999, was when the Honorable William Chichester, Lord O'Neill, prebendary of St Michael's (1845–59), was made honorary dean's vicar in 1859, although, like Barton, how long he held this position is unclear. He married Elizabeth Grace, daughter of the archdeacon of Dublin, John Torrens (whose fine portrait still hangs in the chapter house) the previous year in 1858, and was a talented violinist, organist and composer, with a number of publications to his name. There may have been some politics to the position becoming honorary, because Boydell notes that the vicars choral were 'vigilant in guarding their rights and incomes: in 1855 they challenged the legality of the decision to transfer the rights and revenues of dean's vicar and chanter's (or precentor's) vicar from the vicars choral to the prebendaries of St Michael's and St Michan's respectively, a move which they rightly claimed was in contravention of the 1604 charter of James I.'

Following the restoration of the cathedral in 1878, the clerical vicars choral were often referred to as residential minor canons, and the appointment of clerical vicars became an honorary position, with the exception of two appointees who were the teachers in the grammar school until it closed in the 1970s. There is still a provision in the cathedral constitution for the appointment of honorary clerical vicars (briefly referred to, in a change by Dean Paterson from 1997-2006, as priest vicars). The title of the lay vicars choral of the choir likewise survived until the 1970s, but after the appointment of Judy Pomeroy as the first female lay vicar choral in 1980, it does not appear to have been used. The title re-emerged in 1995 when Mark Duley established a college of lay vicars choral for a Saturday evensong, and it will doubtless not be the end to the continuing evolution of the structures of cathedral personnel. In the meantime, a very warm welcome to our new dean's vicar.

CEO PERSPECTIVE

Susanne Reid

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we reach the end of 2024, I am struck by the number of activities that are ongoing at the cathedral. I have set down below those that I trust will be of interest to the Friends.

FABRIC – CHAPTER HOUSE

Late in 2023, we upgraded both the main office and the staff kitchen. Works continued in 2024 as we secured grant funding from the government's Historic Structures Fund to the value of €171,000 which the Board were in a position to match-fund. These monies have been used to repoint areas of the chapter house (carried out by Summit), repair some of the original windows (led by Evan Connon of Connon Stained Glass), and preserve the exterior doors and their ornate ironwork (Darren Twyford of Lionshead Metal Restoration and Design). In 2025, we will push on with further works in the chapter house including the chapter room, the upstairs office and the entrance hall. It is also our plan to restore one oil painting per year – and we are awaiting the return of our earliest cathedral portrait, that of Francis Marsh, former archbishop of Dublin (1682–93), from the conservator.

Above: Darren Twyford, director of Lionshead Metal Restoration and Design working on the chapter house door. Below: the restored chapter house at the end of November 2024.

BOARD & COMMITTEES

I serve both the Board and its committees and enjoy this part of my work very much. As a small charity we are very privileged to have volunteers in all disciplines who give so much of their expertise and time to the cathedral.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

I am pleased to report that it has been a strong season for tourism, events and retail. Although visitor footfall still lags behind pre-Covid numbers, the increased admission fee coupled with the increased spend per visitor in the shop, mean that we are performing well. It is important that I acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the team here at Christ Church. They are pivotal to the commercial success of the organisation.

I would give special mention to two events this year. Firstly, the weekend of the US College Football where the whole team pulled together to welcome record visitor numbers. The second is Friday 4 October when a day's filming from a leading streaming service took place in the nave and chapter house and our tour operator business was accommodated without interruption via the west doors.

DEALING WITH OTHER PARTNERS

An important part of my role is liaising with external partners such as Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council and the Church of Ireland's Representative Church Body. Close collaboration with the property and legal departments of the RCB and the former and current Chief Executives of Dublin City Council means that a significant restoration of St Werburgh's funded by the Council will go for local government part 8 planning at the end of this year.

A recent collaboration, which yielded widespread coverage across news and social media, is a one-year Corporate Power Purchase Agreement (CPPA) between the cathedral and Pinergy, the energy transition company, which will allow Christ Church to power its operations using renewable energy sourced from Moneenatieve Wind Farm, Co. Leitrim, not far from the shores of Lough Allen.

Susanne Reid, CEO with Colm Foley, Commercial Energy Manager for Pinergy in front of the cathedral.

The Advent and Christmas period is my favourite time of the year at Christ Church. It was wonderful to hear the beautiful music and to see so many of you in the building for services, lectures and concerts. As our attention turns to planning for 2025 and beyond, I'll be back in the next edition to give you an update on our activities.

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

Raymond Scullion

RETAIL MANAGER

The cathedral gift shop, located in the crypt, is a very interesting part of the visiting experience for the many people from all over the world who come to visit Christ Church.

Over the last number of years, the cathedral has continued to invest in appropriate and high-quality shop fittings that are in keeping with the surroundings, but also serve as durable and functional furnishings, in what is a very busy part of the cathedral during the Summer months in particular.

I joined the cathedral staff as a full-time manager of the shop in 2019, and am assisted in this role by my colleague, Una Lane. Together we endeavor to ensure that the shop is organized and arranged in a professional way and to a very high standard. In addition, the shop has three shop volunteers: Anna, Iris Thompson and Jean Hickey, each of whom work weekly in the shop.

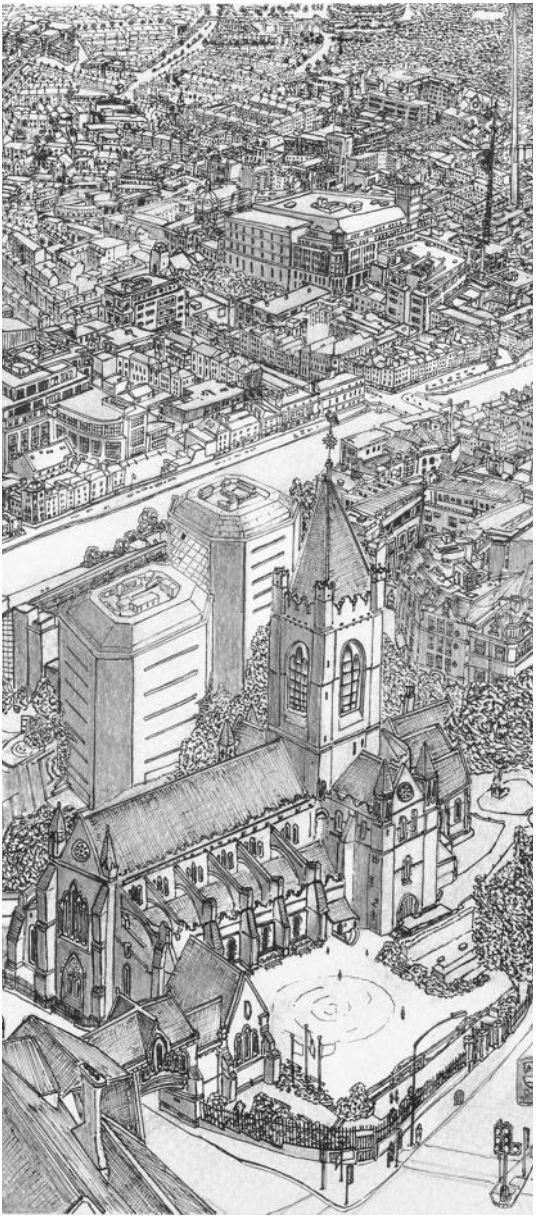
The shop deals with many of the leading gift companies in Ireland, some of which supply the shop with bespoke giftware which is only available in Christ Church. Over the last number of years, new companies have been added to the suppliers list, which have increased the selection and range of products, which appeal to visitors from all parts of the world. The range of products available in the shop includes bespoke Christ Church clothing, candles, books, confectionery and jewellery, as well as many other different types of products, and with plans to increase the selection further within the space available, everyone connected with the shop is looking forward to very busy times ahead.

The gift shop opens when the cathedral is open for public visiting, and virtually all the products are available via the shop website at *www.christchurchcathedral.ie/shop*. Friends of Christ Church can also avail of a 10% discount when purchasing in the shop at any time.

MIND'S EYE VIEW OF CHRIST CHURCH

Samuel Boal

ARTIST, PHOTOGRAPHER & CATHEDRAL EVENT ASSISTANT



Sam Boal here, the artist behind the imagined aerial view of the cathedral on the cover of this issue. I am just another cog in the engine of Christ Church, mainly working on events since about 2022, and helping out with Andy O'Hare, the dean's (and head) verger and others.

My full time job is that of photographer, where I have photographed the British royal family on Irish tours, many of the US presidents and on a daily basis our own Taoiseach, as well as everyday life in Dublin. My other passion is drawing, which I began to explore further during lockdown. I exhibited my first piece to the public at the open exhibition in the Royal Hibernian Academy, and discovered that people liked the style and detail of my illustrations of cities in fine detail using ink pen. I could go on but you can look at my website to see my work and learn a bit more if you're interested, at my website: *www.samboalphoto.com*

With the seal of approval from the dean, and with help from the retail manager, Raymond Scullion, I am working to be able to offer this picture for sale in the cathedral shop, so do drop in and buy a copy if you like it. Thank you to Stuart Kinsella for the opportunity to have this on the front cover, and I am thankful to the whole team at the cathedral for this job which brings me great joy, along with the events team that work so hard in the background, often late at night, to ensure the experience I enjoy whilst working here is as good for visitors to the cathedral as it is for us.

CHOIR TOUR TO LONDON & YORK

Tom Little
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

After a successful year's singing, which concluded with a well-received choir concert and a reception for a cathedral community soirée on Friday 28 June, the choir adjourned for a well-earned summer holiday. Before resuming duties at Christ Church, they reassembled for a UK choir tour in late August, on which Tom Little, director of music, reports below.

The cathedral choir sings for the cathedral community soirée on Friday 28 June.

Saturday 24 August — In late August, the choir set off for its first tour since 2019. Due to COVID and related financial struggles, this was to be the first opportunity for a trip and we are very grateful to the board, the Friends of Christ Church and the Past Choristers Association for so generously supporting us financially. We set off from the cathedral via coach (I wasn't going to risk anyone forgetting their music or robes!) and managed to get through check-in without any issues. Getting on the plane, there was a sense of excitement as we looked forward to spending the next six days together, making music and bonding as a team. Once we had finally arrived at our accommodation, we were met by some of the Past Choristers

The choir in Southwark Cathedral.

David Yau and Iseult Law in the nave of York Minster.

committee who had come to support us. A few pints of English ale (Alleluia!) were drunk on the bank of the river Thames overlooking St Paul's Cathedral.

Sunday 25 August — It was a beautiful and quiet morning as we made our way to Southwark Cathedral. Robes and music were distributed quickly and 'hellos' said to our singer friends joining us. After a quick but warm introduction by one of the vergers, we got the rehearsal underway. Music for the morning was David Briggs' *Truro Eucharist* and Palestrina's *Ego sum panis vivus*. During the service, the celebrant welcomed us and noted that our choir's visit was appropriate bearing in mind the recent passing of their and our former director of music, Ian Keatley. For some, being there was difficult, especially as a vase of flowers still filled his stall.

The choir sang brilliantly, as expected, and we had some lovely comments from clergy and congregation alike. By the time we left the cathedral, Borough Market had woken up and the area was teaming with tourists. After a quick lunch, we headed back for evensong with music by William Mathias, Paul Spicer and Edward Bairstow. Again, the singing was of the highest quality and it was in this service that you could tell that James, our organist, was have a wonderful time on the T.C. Lewis organ. Having packed up, we filed into The George Inn, the oldest remaining galleried coach house in London. We were joined by supporters and friends. The night was not young when we got to bed.

Monday 26 August — After breakfast we departed London, once again on a coach. Tiredness was beginning to kick in after so much travelling but when we finally arrived in York, the choir was back on track. York is the largest gothic cathedral north of the Alps and is the Metropolitical Cathedral

The choir rehearsing around the piano in the 'Camera Cantorum' of York Minster.

of the Province of York (a similar status to Christ Church in Dublin). It is vast, and it was lovely to see some of the choir's faces as we entered through the west doors. After a quick rehearsal, we sang evensong to around 200 people. The music was by Matthew Martin, Hugh Blair and John Sheppard. More bonding in the evening, a tasting of mead for some and scary realisation the hotel bar didn't close until 4.30 am!

Tuesday 27 August — The first commitment was a rehearsal in the minster's Camera Cantorum, and was followed by tours around the building. We rejoined for our second evensong in York with music by

The choir singing in the stalls of York Minster viewed from the organ loft.

Francis Jackson (a previous organist of York Minster) and more David Briggs.

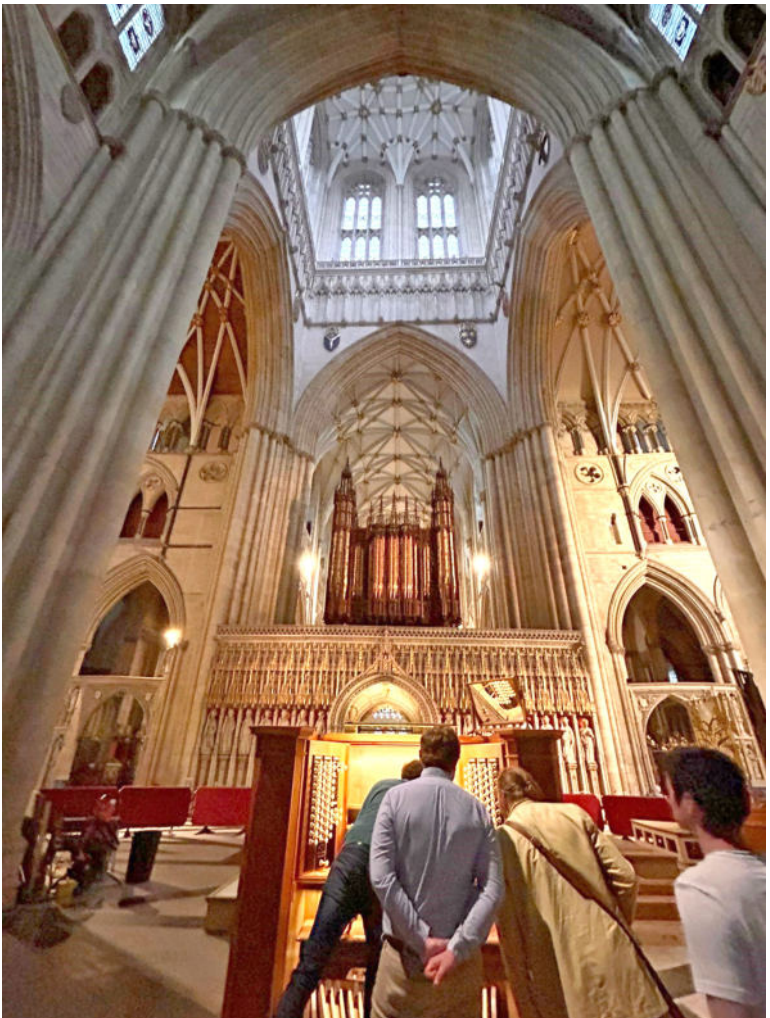
Wednesday 28 August — This was to be our final singing day on tour, as such we had an extended rehearsal in the morning. Following that, supplies were bought for a picnic and what turned out to be a very competitive game of rounders. We returned to the minster for evensong with music by Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells. York is quite a tricky place to sing – the stalls are very far apart, and the acoustic is such that you can't really hear anything around you – however, at the ends of pieces, particularly loud moments, the choir's sound was carried by the acoustics for roughly 7 to 8 seconds!

Following evensong, Simon Hogan, assistant director of music at Southwark Cathedral, gave us a demonstration of the fabulously restored minster organ. Many were stunned by its huge volume. The evening finished with a group dinner in a nearby restaurant where the usual thank-yous were given.

Thursday 27 August – We departed for the airport, checked in, enjoyed duty-free and returned to Dublin mid-afternoon. We were exhausted but proud of the work we had done. We hadn't forgotten anyone, there were no casualties and we'd come away having made new friends and contacts.

Thursday 8 September – We gathered for our first evensong back in Christ Church. The buzz was still there and the quality of singing (off the back of five days away together,) was exceptional. The overwhelming response from our time in England has been entirely positive. The remarks made by those who heard us, including top musicians I know, were very good. Again, thanks to the Board, Friends and Past Choristers for their generous sponsorship.

The moveable organ console used in the nave.



James Short in the organ loft of Southwark Cathedral.

JAMES SHORT, organist and assistant director of music at Christ Church since 2022, gave a recital on Thursday 1 August as part of Galway cathedral's long-running summer recital series. He played the versatile gallery organ which is based on the original 1966 instrument by the Liverpool firm of Rushworth & Dreaper, but was rebuilt in 2006–7 by Irish organ-builder Trevor Crowe (who incidentally acted as interim director of music at Christ Church, Dublin in 1991 between the appointments of Peter Sweeney and Mark Duley). Hailing originally from Kent in the UK, James read music at Exeter College, Oxford where he directed the chapel choir, and was twice a finalist at the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition in Armagh. Before arriving in Dublin, he spent two years as director of music at St Mark's English Church, Florence, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. James built his programme, around E.C. Bairstow's *Sonata in E flat*, and included music by Bach, Franck and Widor.

DR DAVID BREMNER, former organist of Christ Church (2011–19), launched a new 12-inch vinyl single called *Demonstrable Progress* with Farpoint Recordings on Friday 25 October in the Kirkos Space on Prussia Street, a collaboration with the video-artist Brian Duggan. The work explores the decommissioning of the Sellafield nuclear power plant, where much of the site is too dangerous for humans to work in, and a variety of robots are employed to open up, empty and clean the various toxic and inaccessible spaces. The musical composition is for piano and four hands, a duet performed by Dylan Browne and Chloe Power of the UCD Ad Astra Academy, and is paired with video work using original footage from inside the radioactive tanks. It was launched by Dr Ciarán Crilly, Associate Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the School of Music, UCD. Further details at *https://www.farpointrecordings.com*

Vinyl and video from David Bremner and Brian Duggan's Demonstrable Progress.

JACK OADES, former organ scholar (2018–19), and organist and assistant (acting, 2019) director of music (2019–22) at Christ Church, and more recently a tenor lay vicar choral at Exeter cathedral (2022–4), will take up the position of master of the music at St Giles' cathedral, Edinburgh in 2025. Jack read music at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and held organ scholarships at St Edmund's College, Cambridge, St German's Cathedral, the Isle of Man, Croydon Minster, London and St Patrick's, Dublin before coming to Christ Church. He holds an FRCO and earned a Masters in Musical Composition at TCD. He is a multi-award winning composer known not only for his choral compositions, but for his game music and sound design. Further details at *https://www.jackoades.com.*

ARTHUR GREENE, former organ scholar (2021–3) and today both an organist, harpsichordist, composer and organic farmer, played for a charity concert for the Offaly Hospice Project on the Frobenius organ (given by the Lutheran community of Copenhagen) in the Church of the Assumption in Tullamore parish for Halloween on 31 October. Arthur studied music at Trinity College Dublin where he was organ scholar (2018–20), which he followed with a masters in performance at the Royal Irish academy of Music (2020–1). He recently travelled to India to study Carnatic music under the ninth-generation vina player Dr Karaikudi Subramanian.

PETER WHYTE, who deputised in the cathedral choir from 1974–5, and played for some of the cathedral's Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise services, knew Christ Church intimately through his father, Canon Herbert Whyte, chancellor (1986–91). He has studied composition with the cathedral's organists, David Bremner and Jack Oades, and recently wrote a mass for choir, organ, trumpet and clarinet, for Birr Choral Society which was performed in St Brendan's church on Saturday 10 August, conducted by Thomas Charles Marshall with Enda O'Connor, organist.

NEW FACES IN THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

In 2024, four new singers joined the cathedral choir: two sopranos, an alto, and a tenor. They introduce themselves here.

ISEULT LAW (soprano)

Hello. My name is Iseult. I joined the cathedral choir in the beginning of May. I recently finished my undergraduate degree in Law and Business in Trinity College in Dublin. I finished my last exam on 1 May and auditioned for and sang my first service in Christ Church on 2 May! During my law degree I deepened my love for music and singing, and am currently studying for a Diploma in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy in the Royal Irish Academy of Music. I started singing in choirs when I was four and have never stopped. I have sung with the Irish Youth Choir and, at college, Trinity Singers and the all-female Boydell Singers in recent years. I was first introduced to church choirs in Trinity College chapel choir, where I sang for two years. As my time in Trinity came to an end, I realised that I adored the music and atmosphere, and the rest is history! I have absolutely loved my time in Christ Church so far and look forward to singing with the choir into the future.

MATTHEW THOMSON (tenor)

I've recently moved to Dublin in order to take up a new job in the School of Music at University College Dublin. After a chance recommendation from another member of the choir, I was delighted to suddenly find myself singing at Christ Church. Although an academic by trade, singing has always been a huge part of my life. I grew up in Huddersfield in the UK, and began my singing with the youth choirs of the town's famous choral society, along with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. My first real encounter with liturgical singing came when I moved to Oxford, where I spent about fifteen years, first as a student and then as a tutor at various colleges. Over those years, I was lucky enough to gain experience in many different kinds of singing, including as a lieder recitalist, an oratorio soloist, and in operas by Handel, Mozart, and Strauss. Choral singing has always been where my heart rests though, and it's been lovely to find such a welcoming and musically talented community in the choir at Christ Church.

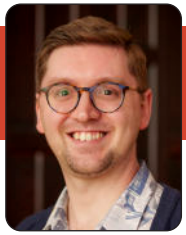
As an academic, my teaching and research focus on the music of thirteenth-century France, so it's also a joy that this choral community is rooted in such a venerable and beautiful medieval building.

ELLA HUNTER (alto)

Hi there! My name is Ella and I have recently joined the cathedral choir as an alto. I moved to Dublin from Belfast around four years ago to pursue music education at Trinity College Dublin in association with the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Here, I had some valuable and unique experiences, such as attending the Kodály Institute in Kecskémet, Hungary, for my Erasmus. Throughout my degree, I tried to step out of my musical comfort zone, which included playing contemporary piano pieces, such as John Cage's *Sonatas and Interludes*, and joining the Trinity College chapel choir. This choir was my first step into ecclesiastical choral singing and quickly became what I looked forward to most during the last couple of years in college. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to join the cathedral choir at Christ Church with such talented singers in a beautiful space each week.

CAITRÍONA FITZMAURICE (soprano)

A Kerry native, I have just moved to the Big Shmoke to continue my music career as a soprano and conductor. After graduating from MTU Cork School of Music with a first class honours B.Mus. degree, I worked with many choirs around Cork. A highlight of my career thus far is conducting the MTU Glór Choral Society in Cork, during which the choir received many great accolades, including being awarded Ireland's Choir of the Year at the Cork International Choral Festival 2023 and the Schumann Award for best performance of a piece by a living composer (*The Destroyer* by Seán Doherty). I regularly perform as a soloist with Kerry Chamber Choir, including Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. In 2023 I joined the Irish Youth Choir and had the privilege of representing Ireland at various choral festivals around Europe. This is my first time joining a cathedral choir and it has already been an incredible experience. Getting to perform such amazing music in Christ Church on a regular basis is definitely a 'pinch me' moment. I have always heard colleagues and friends praise the calibre of the choir and having just been here just a short while, I can understand why. The level of professionalism amongst the choir is remarkable, whilst also being a kind and welcoming group – I look forward to coming back every week.



MUSIC ENGAGEMENT: SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY CHOIR

Tomos Watkins

CATHEDRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Widening the cathedral community continues to be a priority for the music department here at Christ Church. We have expanded our 'Schools Singing' programme this year and now reach up to 200 children each week, who visited the cathedral in December to hear the cathedral choir and sing some Christmas songs. I am aided in delivering workshops by Michael McCartan, who has been a lay vicar choral in the choir since 2020.

The Community Chorus likewise goes from strength to strength. On Sunday 15 December at 8.00pm we performed our Christmas concert, which included Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Numbers continue to grow - there are now more than 150 members on the mailing list with many exciting plans in the works for coming concerts.

Tomos Watkins conducting the Community Chorus in front of the screen in the nave of Christ Church.

PAST CHORISTERS' NEWS

Lesley-Anne Carey
PAST CHORISTER COMMITTEE MEMBER

The cathedral Past Choristers' Association has had a busy quarter with two singing events, a long-awaited AGM and a significant change in personnel for the organisation.

On 26 May 2024, the association held its annual Trinity Sunday reunion evensong. Former members of both the cathedral choir and girls' choir joined forces with the current cathedral choir and were directed by director of music Tom Little, with cathedral organist James Short accompanying from the organ loft. Choristers sang evening canticles in B flat by Stanford, alongside Parry's ambitious verse anthem, *Hear my words ye people*. This was followed by the equally important post-evensong reception and catch-up. It is always a great pleasure to be invited to sing alongside the current choir as part of cathedral worship on our patronal festival and many thanks are due to everyone who made the day a success.

On Sunday 1 September, members of the Past Choristers' Association met in the cathedral to sing both services whilst the cathedral choir were still enjoying their summer recess. Conducted by Jean Finch and accompanied by Tom Little, music included Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, Mozart's *Ave Verum*, Purcell's evening canticles in G minor, with Handel's 'And the glory of the Lord' from Messiah serving as the anthem. The association also held its first post-covid AGM on this day, during which members voted to significantly expand the activities of the association.

Victor Coe.

It is hoped that we will be able to host larger events, assist in raising money for the cathedral and help create a larger and more inclusive musical family within Christ Church. This does not mean that our traditional past chorister events will change, but that new events and opportunities will be created for members. We

have also been looking forward to the cathedral's millennium celebrations in 2028 and hope to have some exciting plans to share over the next few months. Keep an eye on the cathedral website, social media and service sheets for details of any upcoming events and for details of how to get involved.

Sunday 1 September also marked the ten-year anniversary of the re-constitution of the association and was celebrated with a prosecco and cake reception. This happy event was tinged with a little sadness as we announced that our venerable chair, Victor Coe, is stepping down from his post. For over ten years, Victor Coe has been at the helm of the organisation, serving as chairperson, driving force and inexhaustible source of optimism about all things choral and Christ Church. It is thanks to Victor's enthusiasm and vision that the Past Choristers' Association exists in its current form and we are delighted that Victor will be retaining his position on the committee so we can all continue to benefit from his knowledge and expertise. Our new chairperson, Anthea Seager, has stepped into her new role with comparable enthusiasm and we wish her all the best as she takes on the challenge of the association's new, wider mandate.

To join the association's mailing list or to make enquiries please email pastchoristers@christchurch.ie

CHORAL MOVEMENTS

AIMEE KEARNEY, a member of the Cathedral Girls' Choir (2015–18), a soprano choral scholar (2019–20) and lay vicar choral at Christ Church (2020–22), who studied in the Royal Irish Academy of Music (2019–24), has moved to Amsterdam in the Netherlands for an opera masters in the Dutch National Opera Academy, based in the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and the Koninklijk Conservatorium, Den Haag (Royal Conservatoire, The Hague).

EILÍS DEXTER, an alto lay vicar choral at Christ Church (2020–4), moved to Zürich in Switzerland in September to pursue a Master of Music Performance (voice) at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste. She is the daughter of John Dexter, who was organist and master of the choristers at St Patrick's cathedral (1977–2001).

PIERCE CULLEN, a counter-tenor deputy (2022–3) and then lay vicar choral at Christ Church (2023–4), as well as a former assistant director and gentleman (2016–23) of the Palestrina Choir in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, in November moved to the UK to take up a position as an alto lay clerk in Peterborough cathedral.

IAN KEATLEY (1982–2024): AN APPRECIATION

The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn
FORMER DEAN OF SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

Family, friends and colleagues were greatly saddened by the sudden death of Ian Keatley, former organist and director of music of Christ Church (2012–19) in August earlier this year. We are grateful to the former dean of Southwark for allowing us to reproduce the sermon which he delivered at the funeral at St George's Belfast (online here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEZriu4b5ps). The short biography of Ian below captures only a few highlights of his career, tragically cut short.

SERMON PREACHED AT THE FUNERAL OF IAN KEATLEY AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BELFAST ON FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024 BY THE VERY REVEREND ANDREW NUNN, FORMER DEAN OF SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL (2012–23).

"There's a magical moment just before any piece of music begins. The conductor stands there, their arms raised, looking at those who'll be playing, those who'll be singing, holding them there, almost in suspended animation, for that long, pregnant moment. Then, when they're ready, they bring the performers in and out of the silence music appears.

I used to love watching Ian at that moment. I was encouraged at theological college to practice what's called in religious circles, custody of the eyes, not looking around, but as all who've worked with me know, I'm useless at that. Instead, I'd watch from my stall caught up in that breath holding moment as Ian waited for the right moment to bring the choir in.

It's almost impossible to express the sadness with which we gather today. Ian's sudden, untimely, so unexpected death has left us all shocked and our lives so much the poorer. But we're particularly thinking of Viviene and James, Ian's parents, Simon and Niall, his brothers and of the rest of his family who he loved so much, and of whom he was so proud. Our thoughts, our prayers, our love go out to each of you and not least to Ashley who was with Ian in Austria when he died, and did all she could to save him.

So much has been written and said about Ian since he died, so many wonderful tributes paid, so many features of his rich life revealed, things perhaps of which even his family were unaware, things of which he never particularly spoke but which all contributed to a life given to music, yes, but also a life given to so much more and to making others welcome and happy and loved.

Ian did love life, loved his food, loved his wine, loved learning to sail, loved laughing, loved dressing as smartly as any event would allow – even if it really didn't allow him to dress that smartly. I was saying in the vestry, the first Easter lockdown Day (and the arrangement at Southwark is that you have to kind of live alongside the Director of Music and share the garden) and we agreed, and I want you to hear this properly, that we would have a distanced glass of champagne to celebrate the Resurrection in the garden, which I think was allowed. And Ian appeared in his kitchen back door in full morning dress, armed with a roasting tray, in which he'd roasted a whole leg of lamb himself, with all the accompaniments – he

loved filling a room with his laughter, loved simply being alive.

But, my friends, Ian also loved God. One of the things that made me want Ian to be the Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, and a reason for appointing him, was not just that he was a brilliant choir director, bringing the best out of those he directed, but also that he had a real, deep-down understanding of the place music has in worship. It's poignant that just before he died, he had been visiting a church and waxing lyrical, so I am told, about the building and the acoustic and what music it would suit.

Jacob lying there under the stars realises that he's at the gateway to heaven. Angels ascend and descend and heaven and earth are connected, by a ladder, but also by that sense of awe and wonder that the patriarch describes.

> "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Worship is always a participation in the things of heaven and as we heard in the Second Reading heaven is lived with a musical accompaniment. The whole company of heaven sings of the glory of God, angels and archangels rejoice in the presence of God and every creature there is caught up in the song that is sung.

A former Dean of St Paul's, the metaphysical poet, John Donne, captures

Ian Keatley directing the Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir in March 2015.

this so well in words from a sermon which have become a prayer and have been set subsequently by so many to music.

> Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
> into the house and gate of Heaven,
> to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
> where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
> no noise nor silence, but one equal music.

The equality comes from the fact that what is sung in heaven is echoed in what is sung on earth, just as those shepherds experienced on that first Christmas night as the darkness and the silence that surrounded them were broken through, breached, by dazzling light and heavenly song. It was song and light that sent them from abiding in their fields to experience God in the midst, the baby lying in the manger. But their response, as we just heard in the gospel reading was to return

> 'glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.'

Their lives had been transformed by the angels' song which had inspired them to leave the security of their fields, to find God where no one had yet looked and then to return with songs of praise on their lips that would wake up the sleepy town and echo through to our liturgy today.

And Ian knew all this. He knew it not just in some professional, learnt way, he knew it because it was in his heart. He knew that what he could bring to the liturgy, to any service, to any act of remembrance, big or small, to any evensong be there a full nave or two or three gathered together, was a touching place with heaven, a place where the divine ladder would find a place to rest, on which singing angels would descend and our equal song would ascend.

And out of that pregnant silence, before a single note had been played, before a single note had been sung, out of that seeming emptiness, the fullness of joy and worship emerged. And then …. well then the piece ends – the last note is sounded, the last word sung and Ian's arms, still held up moved no longer and he held that moment for a long, long second, until his arms were lowered and it was over and we could breathe again.

Music is held, framed, contexted by and in, silence – and it comes, it emerges from silence, it ends, retreats, is held in silence. There's a wonderful and mysterious completeness about it.

In that lovely obituary in *The Times* just a week ago, mention was made that Ian was taken by his father with his brothers to Southwark Cathedral when he was only seven. They had a photo taken in front of the High Altar to mark the occasion. How wonderful that he came back to the place in 2002 to be the Organ Scholar, and then what a blessing that he came back in 2019 as the Director of Music. He went full circle, boy to man making music in that sacred space, as he made music in so many sacred places including this church, where it all began, so that you and I may know just a little more about the nature and the beauty and the glory of God.

And now he's held in that place of 'no noise nor silence, but one equal music', where the ladder ends, where the angels gather, where the song is sung and where God is truly known. And at this altar and in this sacrament we come to that thin place where we hear the angels song and eat the angels' bread, where we glimpse, just for a moment, a tantalizing moment, what Ian now knows fully into eternity.

Like you all, I loved Ian. Like you, I will never forget him. But for the moment, bereft, heart-broken, yet thankful we leave him in the divine embrace of the one who created him, the one who saved him, the one who graced him, who Ian worshipped here, with us, and can now adore with the angels for ever and ever. Amen."

A collage of photographs of Ian, compiled by Tom Little, which stood in the crypt at the reception after his requiem.

Ian Keatley was born in Belfast on 10 March 1982 and began his musical life as a chorister at St George's Belfast and later at Methodist College Belfast where he was appointed organ scholar in 1996. Aged 16, he moved to Wells cathedral where he was a vicar choral (1998–2000). Two years later, he moved to London to become assistant organist at Croydon Minster (2000–2), following which he was appointed organ scholar of Southwark cathedral (2002–4), founding and directing the cathedral's Merbecke Choir for young adults there. In 2004 he graduated from the Royal College of Music where he was a prize winner for organ performance, and was appointed organ scholar at Westminster Abbey (2004–6). Following this he was deputy master of music at the Chapels Royal, Her Majesty's Tower of London, and later director of music at Westminster Abbey choir school. He moved to Dublin to become organist and director of music at Christ Church cathedral (2012–19) after which he was director of music at Southwark cathedral (2019–24). He was also a trustee of the Charles Wood Festival and a founding director of the Charles Wood Girls' Choir. He died on holiday on 6 August 2024 in Innsbruck in Austria aged 42.

BELFRY BRIEFING

Raymond Cregan

RINGING MASTER

The belfry has seen a great deal of activity over the last few months. Aside from the encounters which tourists have, chiming the lighter three bells during their tours of the belfry, there has been a large degree of public engagement, with members of the Christ Church Society of Change-Ringers introducing the art of full-circle ringing to large numbers of members of the public at Culture Date with Dublin 8 (11 May), the Liberties Festival (25-27 July), Heritage Week (17 & 23-24 August) and on the nineteenth annual Culture Night (20 September).

We have also had individual visitors. One Italian ringer, Tommaso Sorrenti, who comes from the Bolognese tradition of bell ringing where the bell is rung almost full-circle by being pulled from side to side by one or two people, visited in July, and uploaded a video to YouTube with considerable detail about the cathedral bells. The German carillon player, Davit Brambyan, also visited the belfry, and normally plays the 76 bells of der Rote Turm (the Red Tower) in Halle, the birthplace of a certain G.F. Händel, a composer not unknown to Dublin audiences.

Visitors to the belfry on Culture Night.

Some of our ringers ventured further afield too. A project called *Lex Innocentium 21 Century*, an echo of Adomnán's law of the innocents decreed at the synod of Birr in 697, is its modern reimagining declaring that war is a crime against humanity, the planet and the future. It was launched on the UN International Day of Peace, 21 September, at Birr, Co. Offaly and Redwood Castle at Lorrha, North Tipperary, and at 5.00pm, when all peace bells were rung out all over the world, the castle bell was rung with a rope donated by Christ Church by two cathedral ringers, Vyvyenne Chamberlain and Claire Kelly.

The business of training new ringers continues apace and five students are currently being coached. In addition, on 27 July, two of our members completed Module 1 of the Association of Ringing Teachers course which was run in St Audoen's. Two members also participated in a bell maintenance course run in conjunction with St Patrick's and using both our tower on 16 November – which was timely as a Christ Church clapper had only broken the day before!

Christ Church has also been well represented at the almost monthly Eastern District practices in Taney, Wexford, St Audoen's and Arklow and, on Saturday 14 September, when it met at Christ Church, the

Robert MacDonald and Ray Cregan teaching, respectively, Benedetta Bruno and Brandon Taylor, grandson of former ringing master, Leslie Taylor.

Taylor Cup (in memory of former Christ Church ringing master, Leslie Taylor) was won by a team captained by Christ Church ringer, Vyvyenne Chamberlain. The team this year comprised (pictured left to right) Laura Higgins (Christ Church), Vyvyenne Chamberlain (Captain, Christ Church), Una Millett (Taney), Colin Holliday (Bangor), and (back row) Jamie Golding (Drogheda) and Peter Jameson (Drogheda). The competition is held every two years, but was paused during Covid, and has been won by teams captained by Derek McEndoo (2016), David Taylor (2018) and David Hogan (2022).

Five quarter peals were also rung over six months: 1260 Plain Bob Doubles on the front 6 of the back 10 of the middle 12, conducted by Gary McGuire (14 July); 1260 Doubles (2 methods: 60 Christ Church Dublin Differential Doubles and 1200 Plain Bob Doubles) in fond memory of the charming and elegant George Gogan (8 September), a member of the Christ Church Society of Change Ringers, who we lost just shy of his 84th birthday in July and who is sadly missed; 1260 Doubles (two methods: 240 Grandsire (Morris's 240) and 1020 Plain Bob Doubles) rung to congratulate steeple keeper, David Hogan & Annia, on the birth of their son Timothy (6 October); and 1260 Christ Church Dublin Differential Doubles, composed and conducted by Gary McGuire (ringing master 2006–8) on the back 6 of the front 12, marking his wedding anniversary and Vyvyenne Chamberlain's 70th birthday (22 December 2024).

There was also a visiting band, the Friends of Derick Obergene Society, who rang 1440 Plain Bob Sixteen, i.e. on sixteen bells, the first time a quarter peal had been rung at Christ Church on more than 10 bells (27 July 2024). This band on their 20th annual week-long quarter peal tour (26 July-6 August), organised by Dave Matthews, rang the remarkable number of 45 quarter peals (and 11 attempts) in 31 churches around Ireland (*https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=19264*).

In more relaxed mode, the bell ringers were well represented, as were members of the Community Choir, at the September Social in the crypt, a new venture organised by the Friends+. A Halloween fancy dress practice on Friday 1 November also yielded some blood-curdling costumes. The ringers' Christmas party takes place in the crypt on Thursday 19 December, and we look forward to the annual festivities ringing out the old and in the new on New Year's Eve.

Vyvyenne Chamberlain's winning team with the Taylor cup.

VIEW FROM THE BELFRY

Nicole Lanphier

CATHEDRAL BELLRINGER

Coming originally from Cleveland, Ohio, I never thought of bell ringing as something I might do–although to be fair my husband, coming originally from Dublin, also didn't have it on his bingo card of likely hobbies. The two of us were excited to attend a tour of the Christ Church Cathedral bell tower as part of the 2023 Heritage Week festivities. It's easy to fall in love with the bell tower – the old stone spiral staircase with windows to the outside and inside of the cathedral, the big ornate metal key that unlocks the doors on the way up, the view from the top, all the way to the Dublin mountains on clear days – and the bells.

On our first visit, we crowded in with the rest of the visitors to listen to a bell ringer (our own Andrew Nolan!) explain the history of the tower and the basics of bell ringing. After a demonstration, we got to try our hand at chiming the bells, a thoroughly thrilling experience that I recommend to anyone who can make their way up to the ringing room. To my absolute delight, the ringing master Ray Cregan invited us to come back to be trained as bell ringers, and a few weeks later we started.

Since beginning training this time last year, we have had opportunities to participate in things I never could have imagined – ringing for Sunday services, ringing in the New Year, participating in our first competition, ringing as part of the band for a wedding, even visiting and ringing in towers outside of Ireland. We are still very much beginners, and continue to benefit from the teaching of extremely generous, patient ringers who give their time and energy every week to help bring us and other new ringers along.

I feel like I could name a hundred small things that I love about ringing. There's the sound of it all, the feeling when you get the rhythm just right, the mechanics of moving such heavy bells with such slender ropes. There's the Sunday morning choir voices drifting up through the ringing room floor, and visiting the very top of the tower where the bells are hung on their giant wheels–the dim light and high ceiling and faint sounds of people and horses passing below make it feel like a strange and lovely dream. I think for me the real magic of ringing is the mix of a highly technical, physical skill (there's so much counting, there are such precise movements!), with the way it connects you to the past–ringing the same methods that have been rung for centuries, feeling the vibrations of the same notes through the same stones in the tower. It's an activity that demands you be fully present, at the same moment that it's busy transporting you through time.

And we throw pretty good parties, too!

Below: the bell chamber.
Bottom: Kevin & Nicole.

Left:
Christ Church ringers at St Mary's Blessington on Saturday 9 March 2024 who rang in the Lindoff Cup competition (the first time for Sara, Kevin & Nicole) at the meeting of the Eastern District of the Irish Association of Bell Ringers.

Below:
Andrew Nolan literally showing Nicole the ropes!

EDUCATION UPDATE

Dr Ruth Kenny
HEAD OF LEARNING & INTERPRETATION

The last few months have been busy ones for Learning and Interpretation, with the successful completion of our access audit. Jan Loveless of Access Matters spent four days at the cathedral in mid-September assessing the cathedral building, meeting with staff and taking part in services and tours. As part of the audit, she also helped to facilitate a focus group with a selection of volunteers, who have a variety of access needs. They took part in a general discussion and were then assigned tasks around the building e.g. buying a ticket, accessing the crypt, attending a service, navigating their way around our building, using our leaflets and audio guide, and engaging with our interpretation, etc. They also assessed our website and pre-visit information. All our volunteers were very engaged and gave us extremely helpful feedback, which fed into Jan's report. Our plan is to keep this focus group going in the longer term and re-convene annually to monitor implementation and any new access requirements. We have now received Jan's report and recommendations and are assessing her prioritised action points with a view to implementing as many of them as possible in the near future.

We have also held a number of very enjoyable workshops. On Saturday 21 September we welcomed Tunde Toth for a paper-making workshop, inspired by the cathedral's collection of medieval manuscripts. Following a tour of the crypt treasury and an interesting discussion of paper conservation and the history of papermaking, the group adjourned to the

Paper making workshop with Tunde Toth.

Henry Roe Room, where Tunde led them in making a selection of handmade paper. The workshop was very well-received and saw some new faces taking part in cathedral activities. We hope to run another workshop with Tunde, focusing on print making, next year.

As part of the Dublin Festival of History, on 9 October we welcomed back Dr Greg Sullivan who once again delivered his talk from the February symposium about the contested history of public monuments, drawing on the Christ Church collection and his work on the 'Pantheons' project in St Paul's Cathedral , London. The talk attracted an interested audience with a good Q&A session at the end.

We also took part in Open House and Open House Junior again this year. On Saturday 12 October we ran a drop-in stained-glass

sun-catcher workshop for Open House Junior in the south transept. Over 40 children took part over the two hours of the workshop. The following weekend, 18 / 19 / 20 October, we ran a series of special architectural tours and offered a number of free-entry tickets with audio-guide. All these activities sold out and were well-received. A big thanks to Janice Stewart from Open House, who led the tours for us with great enthusiasm.

On Friday 29 November we welcomed Andrew Gant, author of 'Deck the Hall', who spoke to us about the stories behind some of our favourite Christmas carols, accompanied by members of the cathedral choir. Three schools took part in our Shoppers Carols series of free lunchtime concerts. Our Christmas trees were again decorated by local schools on the theme of stained glass. We also held two of our popular Christmas wreath workshops on Saturday 14 December.

Ruth Kenny giving her Heritage Week tour 'The lost alleys of Christ Church' on 21 August 2024.

CATHEDRAL TOUR GUIDES VISIT ENGLAND

Kelly Tavolassi
TOUR GUIDE

Kelly Tavolassi is from São Paulo in Brazil and moved to Ireland in 2006. She works in the Tourist Information Centre in Howth and, like Colette Cummins, holds a National Tour Guide license. Charline Zachariades is the Welcome Desk Supervisor, and all have worked as tour guides at Christ Church since 2023. Both Charline and Kelly gave tours during Heritage week respectively on connections with Normandy (17 August) and connections with Brazil and Portugal (19 August), the latter of which was attended by representatives of the Brazilian and Portuguese embassies.

Kelly giving her tour about connections with Brazil and Portugal.

The embassies of Brazil and Portugal holding their respective flags.

Last summer, Colette, Charline, and I took a trip to London, visiting three of the most architecturally and religiously significant buildings in England, including Westminster abbey, St Paul's cathedral, and Canterbury cathedral. Our journey began in London with our host Áine Cummins, Colette's daughter, visiting Westminster Abbey, the nest of Christianity in England. We were welcomed by Aaron Paterson, the Community Engagement Manager, and he introduced us to St Margaret's church, a hidden gem. Inside the abbey, we explored the restricted area of Edward the confessor's chapel, a rarely accessed place with a great sense of reverence. We also listened to an audio guide about the abbey's heritage and secular monuments. As we left, we were surprised by the memorial to George Frideric Handel in white marble, which was a wonderful connection to Christ Church given the cathedral choir's participation in the first performance of his oratorio, Messiah, in Fishamble Street in 1742.

Aaron Paterson also brought us on a spontaneous visit to St Paul's, where we met Emily Weaver, the Schools and Family Learning Officer. The cathedral has as a rich history and, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, has great architectural significance, as well as demonstrating the resilience of Londoners after the Great Fire of 1666.

The meeting with Emily reinforced the importance of education and in inspiring all visitors to learn more about the country's history and heritage. Charline, Colette and I also explored the cathedral crypt and choir stalls, while Charline ventured up to the dome above. The visit renewed our respect for one of London's most important sites and reminded us of the educational power of these historical places.

After Holy week in London, we visited the UNESCO world site of Canterbury cathedral, whose medieval architecture, including ribbed vaults and unique carvings, brought us back in time to this amazing pilgrimage centre. The highlight was the shrine of St Thomas Becket (a contemporary of Dublin's St Laurence O'Toole), which would have been visited by so many medieval pilgrims, which has been digitally reconstructed. We also saw a Huguenot service taking place in one of the chapels in the crypt. The visit to Canterbury cathedral was most instructive, and the scale of the building demonstrated well the power of faith in medieval times.

Our trip concluded with a renewed appreciation of the architecture, heritage and culture of these historic buildings. They are remarkably enduring symbols of faith and devotion over many centuries that transcend our daily lives. Visiting these places was an incredible experience and hugely educational. Though a short journey, Charline, Colette, our host Áine and I have many special memories of the trip, and it gave us greater insight into the many connections to our own cathedral of Christ Church.

Above: Charline, Kelly & Colette with Aaron Paterson in Westminster Abbey.

Below: Colette, Kelly and Charline immortalised in stained glass at Canterbury.

Kelly, Colette and Charline on a Thames ferry by the Houses of Parliament.

RESEARCH ADVISOR NOTES

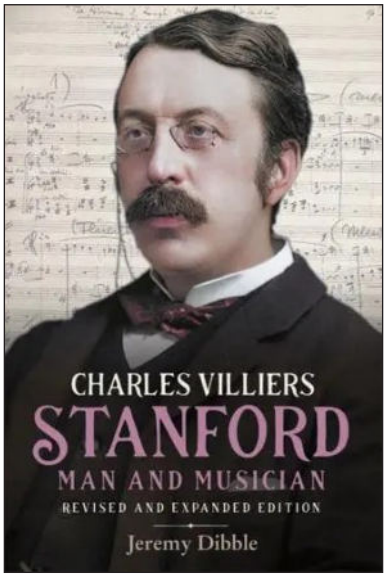
Dr Stuart Kinsella
RESEARCH ADVISOR & EDITOR OF *FRIENDS' NEWS*

As the millennium of Christ Church and the diocese of Dublin approaches in 2028, as indeed does the 900th anniversary of Laurence O'Toole's birth (1128) and the 150th of the completion of Street's restoration (1878), the cathedral is fortunate to draw on the talents of several people with considerable experience in the worlds of heritage and history, archives and education. Dr Raymond Refaussé, the former librarian and archivist of the Church of Ireland's Representative Church Body Library and Archive is both the honorary keeper of the archives and the chairman of the History, Research and Learning committee of the cathedral (originally established in 1993 as an Archives Advisory Committee). Dr Ruth Kenny, head of learning and interpretation, contributes her own education report elsewhere in this edition, and notes in particular the engagement with the public through cultural events such as Heritage Week, the Open House tours, and various cathedral workshops.

One of the longest running forms of engagement on mostly historical subjects has been the popular series of lunchtime lectures. The most recent of these on Tuesdays in November marked the centenary of the death of Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924), a brilliant musician who spent formative years learning the organ at Christ Church under the organist Robert Prescott Stewart (whose statue is pictured in Adrian Le Harivel's article), before leaving Dublin aged eighteen for Cambridge where he began a successful career as an organist, conductor and composer. The lectures took place after a series of organ recitals of Stanford's music at St Patrick's, and the Stanford Festival held in Dublin this year, and were prompted by the interest of Adèle Commins, head of music at Dundalk Institute of Technology. Speakers addressed various aspects of Stanford's life: David O'Shea (Technological University Dublin)

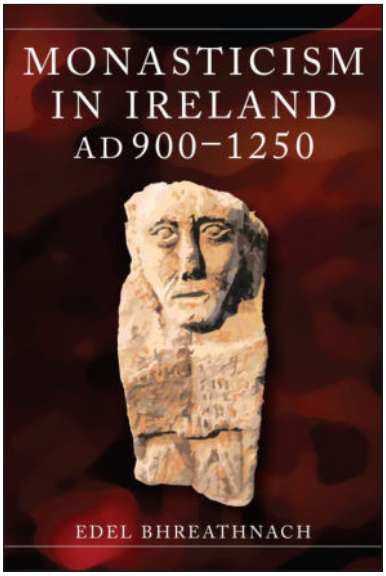
Professor Jeremy Dibble lecturing on Stanford (Tuesday 26 November).

dealt with his relationship to Dublin, Adèle looked at his opera *Shamus O'Brien*, Paul Rodmell (University of Birmingham) talked about his symphonies, and finally Jeremy Dibble (formerly of Durham University), who reissued an expanded biography of Stanford with Boydell & Brewer in 2024,

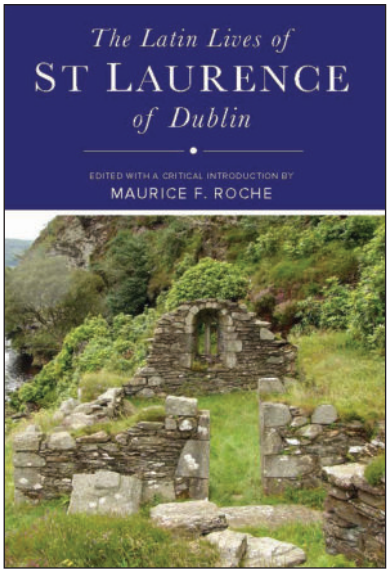


addressed his choral works. The lecture was generously supported by the cathedral and the Friends while accommodation for our two English speakers was facilitated by Professor Alan Ford. The same month, it was a pleasure to see a series of Thursday lunchtime lectures take place at Dublinia where speakers addressed subjects such as miracles and medieval magic (Emer Kavanagh), powerful Viking women (Patrick Herbage and Mark Louth), whether the arrival of the Anglo-Normans was inevitable (Michael Potterton), and a Viking warrior's grave in Duibhlinn (Linzi Simpson).

In 2025, there are already plans for two lecture series in February and November. The first will take a historical look at the perennial problem of poverty and homelessness in Dublin, made more acute by the current housing crisis. Felix M. Larkin will treat the Sick and Indigent Room Keepers Society (founded 1790), while Eimhin Walsh will examine the Mendicity Institute (1818), whose honorary secretary Thomas Abbott is remembered in the statue of the weeping orphan by Thomas Kirk at the west end of the nave. The final two lectures will cover the more recently founded Focus Ireland (1985) and the roots of the current housing crisis. It is worth noting that the Viking and medieval exhibition, Dublinia, will once again organise a lunchtime lecture series on Thursdays, beginning on 20 February, when the writer will present a lecture on the history of St Michael's church, in the first in a series looking at the history of the site. In November, Dr Jesse Harrington of the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies will present a series of four Tuesday lunchtime lectures on St Laurence O'Toole (whose feast day falls on 14 November), the 800th anniversary of whose canonization in 1225 takes place in 2025. St Laurence of Dublin has been remarkably neglected considering there were only three Irish saints canonized in the medieval period since 1181, when Virgil [Fergal] of Salzburg (d.784) was canonized, followed by St Malachy of Armagh (d.1148) in 1190. Ireland had to wait until 1975 before another was canonized, Oliver Plunkett (d.1681), followed in 2007 by Charles of Mount Argus (1893). Jesse, who has been promoting the life and memory of St Laurence in both lectures and radio interviews in the last years, will produce a new biography of St Laurence, as well as an edition and translation of his several lives, which will update the work of Maurice Roche, of which more below.



There have also been a number of noteworthy events relating to medieval Dublin. On Monday 7 October, Janet Burton, professor of medieval history at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David launched in the music room the long anticipated study by Edel Bhreathnach, *Monasticism in Ireland AD 900–1250*, published by Four Courts Press, perhaps the most important work on monastic Ireland since the publication of *Medieval religious houses Ireland* by Aubrey Gwynn & Neville Hadcock in 1970, and is sure to stand the test of time. We also extend our condolences to Edel on the death of her husband, Raghnall Ó Floinn, former director of the National Museum of Ireland, who died on Tuesday 10 December. A generous colleague and careful scholar, he was interested in the surviving relics of St Laurence and wrote two important articles on the relic lists of Christ Church that survive from the cathedral's foundation and from the late medieval period. Another event was a conference at St Saviour's, Dominick Street on Friday 8 November, marking 800 years since the arrival of the Dominicans in Dublin, organised by the Friends of Medieval Dublin and inadvertently (!) chaired by the writer. It concluded with the publication of Bernadette Williams' important new translation of *The Dublin annals of Prior John de Pembridge OP and his Dominican continuator: An account of Irish affairs, 1162–1370*, again published by Four Courts, which contains the quirky observation, in 1337, of seven partridges flying from the fields over the marketplace to the top of the brew-house of the Augustinian canons regular at Christ Church, noted because such like had never been seen before. The conference concluded the following day with a tour of the sites of the medieval churches of Dublin, including the cathedral and two of its prebendal churches: St Michael's and St John's, which ended in the new square on the site of St Michael-le-Pole's church. This leads naturally on to the recent launch by Professor Alan Ford, in the former chapel of the old Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines, of



Ronnie Wallace's new edition of *The churchwardens' accounts of the parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin, 1663–1702* (having already published in 2011 their vestry records for 1662-1742). More directly pertinent to Christ Church, on the same occasion, was the launch of the above named Maurice F. Roche's *The Latin Lives of St Laurence of Dublin*, an edition of his 1981 doctorate painstakingly typeset by Charles Doherty. Roche died in an accident in 2003, and his thesis was thought lost for many years, and it is rewarding to see it published at last, and available to the public.

Another aspect of the work of the cathedral's HRL committee is to oversee an annual programme of conservation ranging from work on manuscripts in the RCB Library to the wide variety of portraits in the cathedral. The portrait of Arthur Smyth, successively bishop of Clonfert & Kilmacduagh (1752), Down & Connor (1753) and Meath (1765) before becoming archbishop of Dublin (1766–71), which normally hangs at the base of the music room steps, has been lent to Dublin castle for an exhibition.

The preservation of more ephemeral material relating to the huge variety of events which take place at Christ Church is unfortunately very challenging at present given the pressures of space in the cathedral. One solution is the digitization of records, and it is hoped that the century-long run of the cathedral's *Blotter, Calendar & Yearbook* (1920s–1970s) and the *Friends' News* (1980s–present) can be made available online.

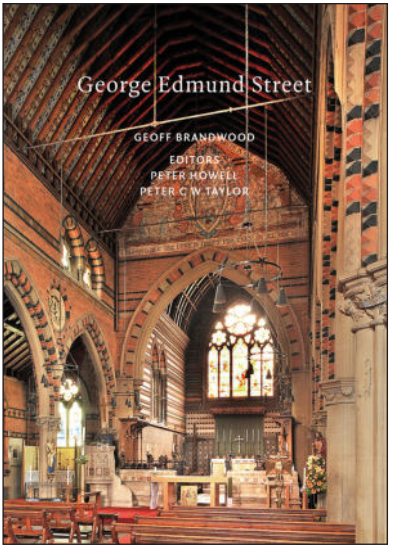
Much of the research advisor's time is spent answering queries which could be grouped roughly into the subjects of architecture, music and history. Dublin's medieval churches have been a source of continuous curiosity under the first of these categories, and there have been numerous queries regarding the former prebendal churches of St Michan's and St Michael the Archangel, as well as those of the vanished churches of St Michael-le-Pole with its old round-tower, St Olave's and St Peter de Monte (under the new student accommodation south of the west end of Stephen Street Upper) and the surviving churches of St Werburgh's and St Audoen's. Colum Stapleton, who came on the tour of medieval Dublin churches, has made the plausible suggestion that the posited rededication of St Columba to St Audoen may have coincided with the foundation of the convent of Grace Dieu on the lands of the old Columban foundation in Swords in a conscious Normanising of the church. Further from Dublin, there were emails about the churches of St John's, Clontarf, St Fintan's, Sutton, as well as St Begnet who appears in the cathedral's book of obits,

Ruins of St Begnet's church, Dalkey.

and has a church in Dalkey (viewed by the Friends on their September tour).

Monuments were also the subject of queries including those in the cathedral to Arthur Grey de Wilton (1580x2), Maurice Kyffin, comptroller of the musters, buried in Christ Church on 5 January 1598, and the 1614 memorial to the namesake son of Arthur Chichester, lord deputy of Ireland. Another query related to Mrs Emily Jane Sarah Fryer, wife of Captain Fryer of the 4th Dragoons, whose memorial is one of two which survive beneath the floor of the kitchen in the north transept crypt. Two other queries related to St Patrick's, including the Wallop brass drawn by Jonas Blaymires around the 1730s-40s and the list of graves in the churchyard made by the sexton, William Maguire (1842), and updated by Mrs Thomas [Ann or 'Annie'] Long (1905) and Charlie Reede (1997).

On Thursday 20 June 2024, Christ Church also marked the bicentenary of the birth of one of the leading gothic revivalist architects of the Victorian period, George Edmund Street (1824–81), who restored the cathedral and built the synod hall on the site of the old St Michael's church, retaining its tower and building an elegant bridge between the two. Street was diocesan architect for Oxford, York, Ripon and Winchester; published his tours of northern Italy (1855) and Spain (1865) and restored thousands of English parish churches as well as the cathedrals of Bristol, Salisbury and Carlisle, but is often best remembered today for his London law courts. In Ireland he is best known for churches in Ardamine in Wexford and Piltown in Kilkenny, and for working on the cathedrals of St Flannan, Killaloe; St Mary's, Limerick and St Canice's, Kilkenny, as well as largely rebuilding St Brigid's Kildare and Christ Church in Dublin, which he regards as 'a deed unequalled as far as I know in Europe'. A new book by Geoff Brandwood, *George Edmund Street*, ed. Peter Howell & Peter Taylor (Liverpool University Press, 2024) is warmly commended.



Stained glass related queries pertained to Sarah H. Purser, founder of An Túr Gloine, and her descendants; the patronage of the stained glass window to Catherine 'Kitty' O'Brien in the St Laurence O'Toole chapel in the south transept by her brother, Brigadier Brian Palliser Tiegue O'Brian (1898–1966), and the dating of the stained glass panel of the 'Head of Christ' by Elizabeth Rivers (1903–64) in the north transept given to the cathedral by Harold Clarke in 2018, with stained glass expert, David Caron, being particularly helpful with queries.

On the campanological front, the bell ringers of the cathedral are conscious of their own duty towards their long history, whether in the preservation of their own records or the many interesting old

photographs on their walls, or the marking of their present day achievements in ringing peals, which are reflected in articles by Raymond Cregan and Nicole Lanphier in this issue.

The cathedral's musical tradition is also long, and musicologist Ann Buckley has been generous in sharing her discoveries concerning the old Red Book of the Exchequer of Ireland. In a tradition of uncertain age, the choir of Christ Church sang in the court of exchequer every year up until the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871. Correspondence with David O'Shea and Pierce Cullen has highlighted the life of conductor and organist Joseph Robinson (who likely partook in this ceremony), a former lay vicar choral of Christ Church (1836–43) and St Patrick's (1843–8, 1856–98), as well as the surviving memorial brass to his entire musical family in Christ Church's musicians' corner. Laura Sheils, through the good offices of Tom Little, obtained from the cathedral music library a copy of the late Seoirse Bodley's *Amra Choluim Chille*, performed by the cathedral choir on Sunday 2 June 2007, for use in her Ph.D. provisionally entitled 'From text to music: A semantic reading of twenty-first century Irish choral music' which she is undertaking at Dublin City University. The Past Choristers' Association, which has expanded recently, is also conscious of the choir's long history, and has appointed Dr Susan Hood, the librarian and archivist of the RCB Library, as their archivist, and is always glad to hear from past choristers, along with their stories of former times.

On the historical front, research queries are varied and multifarious, a selection of which are included below in roughly chronological order. Beginning in the medieval period, the question of St Patrick's staff held by the cathedral from the time of the Anglo-Normans until reputedly burnt at the Reformation often arises, and has garnered a considerable literature. The subject of the Augustinian canons in medieval Ireland, about whom Sarah Preston wrote her doctorate and several articles in the 1990s, is also a stalwart, and arose from a query from Siobhán Parker for a Newbridge community radio group investigating Great Connell priory. Another interesting discovery, drawn from a 1913 letter in the RCB (MS 222) from the Revd Canon Dr James Wilson to the Revd Canon Professor H.J. Lawlor, was that there were charters of confederacy and fraternity between the priors and convents of the Holy Trinity, Dublin and St Mary of Cartmel in Cumbria, still preserved in the Duchy of Lancaster charters in the National Archives, Kew. Ferenc Holyba, a student at Trinity College Dublin, has also been delving into the individuals relating to Dublin's little known early fourteenth-century university.

The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries yielded correspondence about the tomb of William Rokeby, archbishop of Dublin (1512–21) in Kirk Sandal and the associated history of Thundercliffe Grange from Peter Feek, while there is also ongoing work on the notaries of medieval Dublin and their decorative *signa manualia* by Theresa O'Byrne, Caoimhe Whelan and the writer, particularly on the *Liber Albus*, which was assembled by one of the early named cathedral archivists, the Augustinian sub-prior, Thomas Fich. It is hoped that, promoting the contents of the RCB Library abroad and supporting the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, the *Liber Niger* and *Liber Albus* of Christ Church can be made available online. Randolph Jones, a former

member of the British diplomatic service, has continued to make extraordinary contributions to Irish medieval studies, and will shortly publish an article on John Estrete, king's serjeant at law in Ireland, a benefactor of the cathedral who established a mass of the Holy Ghost in the old chapel of St Laurence O'Toole in 1485.

Signa manualia of John Mulghan, fl. 1474–1508 (RCB C6/1/2, f.62).

Seventeenth-century queries included one from Jenny Glenn-Craigie related to the funeral of Christopher Wandesforde, lord deputy of Ireland in 1640, where his daughter Alice Thornton noted keening taking place in the cathedral: 'the Irish did sett up their lamentable hone, as they called it, for him in the church, which was never knowne before for any Englishman don.' Brian Cathcart enquired about the city's medieval pillory and the cathedral's stocks, the present version of the latter probably dates to about the 1680s. For the eighteenth-century, the three-volume *Registrum Novum* assembled by the Revd John Lyon and his clerical associates which transcribed many now lost deeds, was of special interest to the late Raghnall Ó Floinn because of the many seals recorded therein, a specialism which will be hard to replace. Later in that century another query related to a portrait of Tony Small, Lord Edward Fitzgerald's servant and friend, and the writer's discovery of the location of his original colour portrait, a small contribution which is noted in C.K. Bryan & Chamion Caballero (ed.), *Irish people of colour: A social history of mixed race Irish in Britain and Ireland between 1700 and 2000* (London, 2024).

Nineteenth-century queries related to a portrait of poet and writer, James Clarence Mangan, standing in front of the west end of the Christ Church (probably in the 1830s or 40s) which is currently in Áras an Uachtaráin. A black and white version of it was drawn by Irish cartoonist and book illustrator, George Morrow in 1903, but in case anyone can advise, its published source has not yet been identified. Similarly, a sought memoir of the Revd Ambrose W. Lett time in Dublin from 1860–9 (later the Tarbert-based rector of Kilnaughten Union in Co. Kerry, 1872–7), also remains undiscovered. Correspondence relating to the possibility that one Murphy of a Ringsend family of shipwrights was buried at Christ Church may more plausibly relate to his carpentry skills being employed during the 1870s restoration, such is the fallibility of family traditions. Adrian Le Harivel was also interested to know something of the history of the extension built by Thomas Drew around 1891, now used for offices, but which originally included the old library and was later used as the school laboratory.

Queries from the last century have been surprisingly few. One related to two murals depicting Christ Church in the background: Laurence's negotiations with Strongbow in the 1170s and the crowning of Lambert

Simnel as king in 1487, both erected in Dublin's city hall by James Ward in the 1910s. Two decades later appeared the atmospheric guidebook by H.V. Morton, *In search of Ireland* (London, 1930) recommended on the above mentioned tour of medieval churches by Robert McGuire, and which features a Christ Church verger who can most likely be identified as G.D. Clegg, cathedral verger (1926–34), while another enquirer sought the record of her parents' marriage at Christ Church in the summer of 1975.

In the twenty-first century we rather take the written record for granted – items can probably be found on Facebook, the cathedral or diocesan website or on an internal network – but depending on intra or internet resources can be a risky business, as anyone can vouch who used *geocities.com*, follows debates about *archive.org*, or who has had a hard drive fail, and this is to say nothing of the undertaking of documenting things in the first place, which our former honorary keeper of the archives, Kenneth Milne, highlighted recently in correspondence. Even the recording of the constantly changing mosaic of personnel involved in the cathedral (listed at the end of the magazine) is a challenge in itself. Adrian Le Harivel also highlighted the importance of the cathedral's Conservation Management Plan (online under *https://christchurchcathedral.ie/governance*), suggesting it should be printed. Other ephemeral documents are sermons, and Dean Dermot has highlighted the excellent one delivered by President McAleese for a Pride evensong on Sunday 30 June last. It is good to see that some archive of sermons is being preserved online at *https://christchurchcathedral.ie/worship/sermons*. The dean has also highlighted the cathedral's newly framed seal and arms, beautifully executed, which now hang in the chapter room, produced through the office of the chief herald of Ireland, Colette O'Flaherty, and dated 5 December 2019.

There is certainly no shortage of plans for the future, and aside from the February and November lunchtime lecture series, Adrian Le Harivel is organising a series on behalf of the Friends entitled 'Marking Time' which will run on Fridays in Spring at 14.00–15.00 on 28 March, 4, 11 and 25 April, for which there will be a small entrance fee. The cathedral will also hopefully continue to produce its series of historical booklets on the way up the millennium, and one more stop on that chronological journey will be 2027 when Normandy, with whom Christ Church has so many links, will mark the millennium of the birth of their greatest export, William the Conqueror.

FRIENDS' OUTING TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND

Adrian Le Harivel
FREELANCE ART HISTORIAN &
FORMER NGI CURATOR OF BRITISH ART

Adrian Le Harivel joined the committee of the Friends of Christ Church in September to assist with programming and will be leading Dublin visits in the New Year. A full list of the Friends' outings in 2024 and forthcoming in 2025 are detailed in the accompanying table.

Thursday 18 April 2024 saw an enthusiastic group of Friends on a self-guided visit to the National Gallery of Ireland. Some made a beeline for old favourites, especially masterpieces like Johannes Vermeer *Lady writing a letter with her maid*, a truly spiritual work, where the Divine presence is apparent in encompassing daylight. The collection is now recognised as a major one worldwide, spanning seven centuries, laid out chronologically, taking three hours to fully view. Its strengths are its depth of artists and it is the largest holding, anywhere,

'Lady writing a letter, with her maid' (c.1670) by Johannes Vermeer (1632–75).

of Irish art back to the 17th century re-emergence. A selection of portraits showing Irish sitters is changed bi-annually, while commissions and other purchases arrive regularly. The large number of annual loans out can be frustrating, if seeking a specific painting, but it is important to increase the knowledge and enjoyment of the paintings in different contexts.

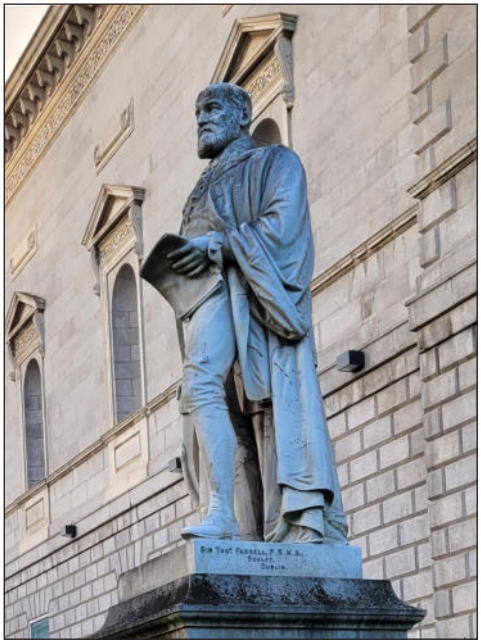
There was plenty new to discover, a reminder that both the Irish and Continental collections continue to grow. In the stained glass room, a glowing Shakespearian subject by Harry Clarke, his last domestic subject, had joined two other key pieces. A Rachel Ruysch still-life, of botanical exactitude, on view upstairs, reflects a programme to add major female old masters. Most were inhibited from fulfilling their ability in the past and are hard to find today, and the curator was first alerted to it attending a symposium. Outreach, like Education programmes at the cathedral are important ways of making connections.

Some Friends headed for the major loan exhibition, *Turning Heads*, offering an intriguing combination of psychology and bravura artistry, from studies of human head. In the Sir Hugh Lane Room, designated for in-focus highlighting, Section 1003 tax dispensation had allowed the purchase of a group of works by Walter

Osborne. Centrepiece was a stunning full-length portrait of *Mary Guinness and her daughter Margaret*, from a series late in his career, that had survived together, with the initial drawing, oil sketch and actual silk dress worn by the mother, so it is an extremely rare group. The archive room display, in the new thinking of using such material for exhibitions, in addition to personal research, was one of three during the year (to preserve the material from excess exposure), comprising designs and work books from the stained glass co-operative *An Túr Gloine*. The café and shop were welcome destinations after so much to see.

A little known fact is that just beside the NGI (by the now famous Leinster Lawn bike shed), there stands a statue by the sculptor, Sir Thomas Farrell, of Sir Robert Prescott Stewart, former organist of Christ Church (1844-94), so it seemed appropriate that a reciprocal visit to Christ Church by the Gallery Friends should took place on Friday 22 July. *A Lesser Spotted Dame Street* walk, devised by Adrian Le Harivel, culminated in a rare opportunity to see inside the chapter house and examine its three centuries of ecclesiastical portraits. Some are part of a long-term conservation programme, so are much improved visually, while they offer great insights into deans and archbishops, past and present, even a lesson in how their dress has evolved, on which everyone should have been proficient by the end. Generous access was given, courtesy of the dean and the administration, with a wine reception to finish.

Sir Robert Prescott Stewart, organist of Christ Church (1844-94), on Leinster Lawn.



FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OUTINGS 2024–5

Thursday 29 February 2024	Unitarian Church
Thursday 21 March 2024	Print Museum
Thursday 18 April 2024	National Gallery of Ireland
Friday 23 August 2024	St Audoen's Church
Thursday 19 September 2024	Dalkey Castle
Friday 18 October 2024	St Mary's Abbey Chapter House
Thursday 21 November 2024	Rathfarnham Castle
Tuesday 10 December 2024	PEATA Lunchtime Carol Service
Saturday 22 February 2024	Royal Irish Academy of Music
Late March 2025	Mansion House

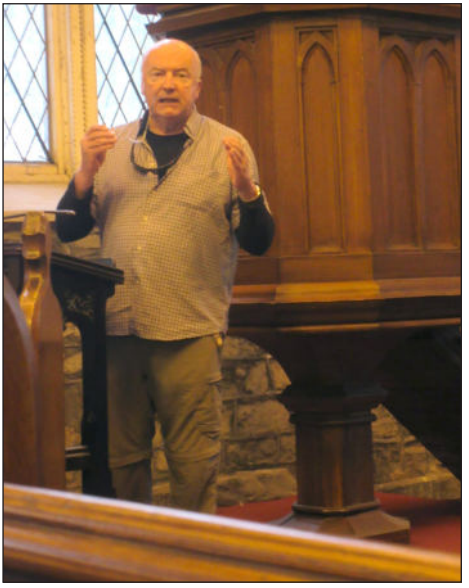
FRIENDS' OUTING TO ST AUDOEN'S & DALKEY CASTLE

Jean Finch
FRIEND & CONGREGATION MEMBER

The Friends arranged several interesting outings this Summer, and I was lucky enough to join in two of them. On Friday 23 August, a group of us were able to join in a Heritage Week event in St Audoen's Church and Heritage Centre. The event was two-fold: we first attended a lecture in the church itself, and then were given a tour of the whole site.

The lecture was given by Turlough O'Donnell, a Senior Counsel specialising in mediation and conflict resolution, who is also the Chair of Camino Society Ireland. He gave a lively, idiosyncratic description of walking the Irish Camino (in reverse) from Bray to St James' Church in the Liberties, which in mediaeval times was the place from which pilgrims from Ireland to Spain began their journey. I had not known that you can have your 'passport' stamped at various places on this journey, including at St James' Church, Bray, which many would know better as Crinken Church. Apparently such stamps can count towards milage on the continental approach to Santiago. Indeed, one place where stamps are issued is none other than our own Christ Church cathedral. I would imagine that most of us will have walked some stretches of the 30 mile walk, and would enjoy filling in the gaps.

Turlough O'Donnell lecturing in St Audoen's.



The font with embedded Camino symbol.

After this talk, Paula from the Heritage Centre staff gave us a tour of the whole complex. She talked about details of the existing church – which is actually only the north aisle of the original church – and its various features. We then went to the space under the tower, where she told us about the history of the church, and the various barons and merchants who endowed it. The next space was the restored nave, which is no longer used liturgically, but houses various exhibits from the centre. We ended up in the ruined Portlester chapel, where Paula talked about the current status of the site, and the building of the monolithic Catholic St Audoen's Church in the 1840s within inches of the mediaeval ruins.

Above: Visiting St Audoen's.
Below: The Sparke & Duff memorials.

St Audoen's is so near to Christ Church, yet so few of us have visited it. It is well worth a visit, not only for the building, but also for the pretty, well-kept garden, which we had to miss due to bad weather. I walk round the garden quite often of a Sunday before the morning service in Christ Church. Why not try it some time!

Then, on a brilliantly sunny Thursday 19 September, I also joined a small group who were taken round the Dalkey Heritage Centre, housed in the larger of the remaining Dalkey castles. I had been round it many years previously, when you went in and drifted round at your own pace. This was a proper organised tour, with a guide, a video, and actors playing roles in several places on the tour.

The video was well prepared, and filled in a lot of the history of how so many castles were built in such a small village. They began as private merchant houses, and

were fortified against all sorts of raiders; Vikings (both for and against), rivals, local Irish. Dalkey was the main port for Dublin for quite a time, and only started to decline when alternative harbourage was created nearer to the city.

After this we went round the grounds, looking at the graveyard, which includes a rare tau cross. It was all so well kept, and was very attractive in the sunshine. We were greeted by a travelling apothecary, who showed us his stall and talked about medical care (or otherwise) of mediaeval times. An archer, part of the defence force, also showed us how he operated, and gave Friends an opportunity to 'have a shot'.

Next we climbed the stairs – not without difficulty – all the way up to the battlements, which gave an absolutely wonderful view all round. The sea view was stunning, and the view of the streets gave an insight into the mediaeval layout of the village. We then climbed down to the main hall, where the maid showed us her duties, and the sort of food which she and the other maids prepared. After so much climbing we were quite glad to reach ground level safely.

It was all really interesting, and well prepared; and we could only wish that more people had been able to join us. They missed a real treat!

Above: Archer at Dalkey Castle.

Opposite: Tau cross at Dalkey Castle.

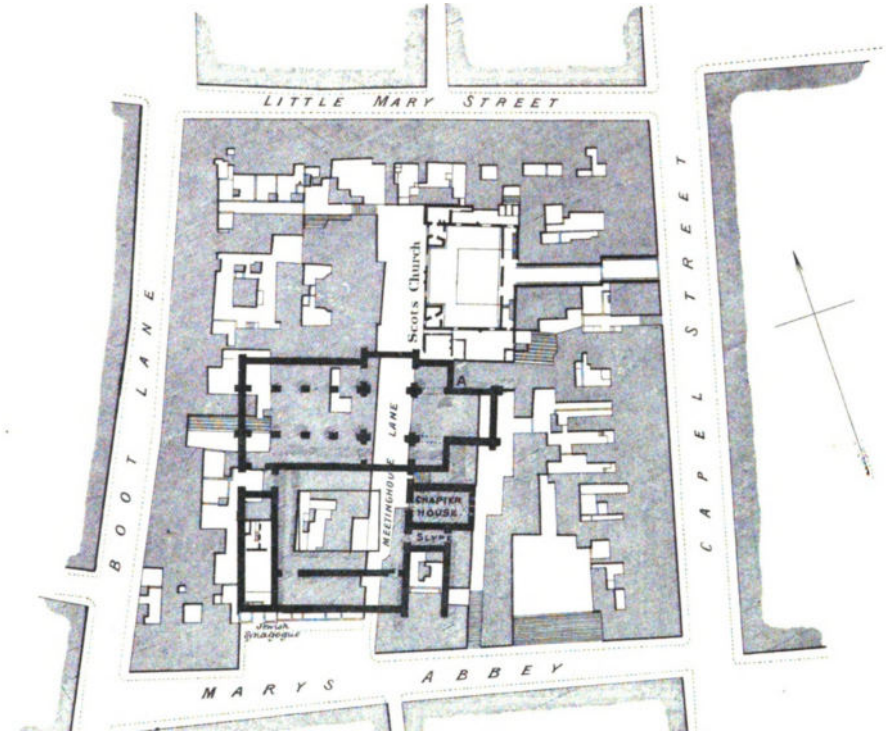
Below: Apothecary at Dalkey Castle.

FRIENDS' OUTING TO ST MARY'S ABBEY, DUBLIN

Dr Kenneth Milne
CHURCH OF IRELAND HISTORIOGRAPHER &
FORMER HONORARY KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

Many members of the Friends of Christ Church will be aware that the area around the cathedral was the centre of life in medieval Dublin. Here were situated three important religious houses: the Benedictine (later Cistercian) community of St Mary's in Oxmantown – originally named from the original Viking settlement north of the Liffey, hence St Mary's Street, Abbey Street, etc; and south of the river St Thomas's abbey (eventually the earl of Meath's liberty of St Thomas and Donore) hence Thomas Street; and the house of the Augustinian canons at the cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The cathedral, commonly called Christ Church, was the only one of the three to survive the Reformation when the prior and canons became the dean and chapter of the new 'secular' cathedral as a result of influential civic voices who interceded with Henry VIII that it should not be suppressed as the other monastic houses had been.

A proposed outline of St Mary's abbey in Dublin made in 1886 by Thomas Drew, architect of Christ Church (1882–1910) based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1838.



Our visit to St Mary's on Friday 18 October was conducted in its chapter house, the only remaining part of the once-considerable extensive abbey, and our guide, Ralph Smyth, emphasised how appropriate it was for a party from Christ Church to be assembled in this chapter house which so closely resembled the (now sadly ruinous) medieval chapter house of Christ Church that stands to the south of the south transept of the cathedral.

Mr Smyth was at pains to reconstruct for us how greatly the life of the monks, both liturgical and administrative, was conducted in their chapter house. And he emphasised its survival as a testimony to the religious life that it represented. He invited us to consider how traumatic it must have been for the members of that community when they were pensioned off by the Crown and had to come to terms with life outside the conventual setting to which many of them had been accustomed, in some cases from boyhood.

We are most grateful to those members of the Friends' committee who have devised so interesting a series of visits, more of which are pending as members will be informed in due course.

Members of the Friends listening to guide, Ralph Smyth in the chapter house of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin.

CORRECTIONS

In the Spring 2024 edition of *Friends' News* (42:1), the following corrections should be noted:

p.2: the dates for the appointment of Mr Eric Rankin and Mrs Irish Thompson should both be 2022 rather than 2023, Ms Bridie McLaughlin's surname under Membership applications was incorrectly spelled as McLoughlin, and the printing was done by Dunmar Press not Dunbar Press; p.5: Lynn Glanville's name was incorrecly spelled as Lynne; p.42: the title NE should have read NA.

The editor apologies for these slips, and encourages readers to alert him at *archives@christchurch.ie* to any corrections, additions, or other infelicities.

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL: FRIENDS+ BECOMES THE COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

Matthew Zaradich
CO-WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

A group of parishioners at Christ Church looking to deepen their commitment and involvement in the life of the cathedral, Friends+, formed in late 2023. Open to all regular parishioners at Christ Church, the group welcomed over 100 members of the cathedral community for a September Social, a dinner and reception on Saturday 28 September 2024.

Gathering in the cathedral crypt, guests were treated to a catered dinner and a pot luck of desserts. Speeches from the Very Revd Dermot Dunne, dean of Christ Church, the Most Revd Michael Jackson, archbishop of Dublin, and founding members, Imad Hazboun and Matty Zaradich, helped those gathered understand the need for a group such as Friends+, and to entice them with future offerings from the group.

The event was a success, and has spurred Friends+ to make strategic changes in the organisation of the group—

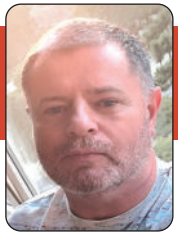
Cathedral community guests in the crypt on 28 September.

starting with the name. Newly styled the Community of St Laurence (or The Community, for short), the new name reflects deep traditions in Christ Church, where the heart of St Laurence O'Toole continues to be revered.

The group has also changed its structure for governance and strategy. The board now comprises of co-wardens, a secretary and treasurer, and a steering committee of three members. Co-wardens Matty Zaradich and Imad Hazboun will lead the group, alongside Vivienne George, serving as secretary and treasurer. The group will next select a steering committee, comprising of three members. All will serve two-year terms, officially beginning in 2025. Prior to the end of 2024, the board will meet to determine the strategy for the following programme year.

For more information on the Community of St Laurence, please contact *thecommunity@christchurch.ie*.

Members of the Community of St Laurence, Chijioke Okechukwu, Vivienne George and Venetia Ellis at coffee after the morning Eucharist on Sunday 1 December.



ARDTEAMPALL CHRÍOST AGUS AN GHAEILGE

Aonghus Dwane
BRUSSELS-BASED WRITER & EU TRANSLATOR

Tá traidisiún fada ag an nGaeilge in Ardteampall Chríost, agus ba mhaith liom, san alt seo, spléachadh tapaidh a thabhairt ar na naisc atá cothaithe idir an ardeaglais agus an Ghaeilge le blianta anuas. Ar ndóigh, is anseo a reáchtáladh Seirbhís bhliantúil na hAontachta Críostaí le blianta fada. Cuireadh tús leis an tseirbhís sin sna 1970idí, agus is iad Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (cumann Eaglais na hÉireann) agus Pobal an Aifrinn (ar thaobh na hEaglaise Caitlicí Rómhánaí) a bhí i mbun a heagraithe. Go deimhin, ba é seo an t-imeacht a chur tús le Seachtain na hAontachta Críostaí san ardchathair gach bliain, agus easpaig ón dá mhór-thraidisiún i láthair, mar aon le hionadaithe ó eaglaisí eile. Ghlac Gaelscoil na Cille i gCó na Mí páirt ann gach bliain, agus bhíodh an tArd-Mhéara i láthair.

Sna 1980idí agus go luath sna 1990idí, bhí seirbhís chórúil i nGaeilge ar bhonn rialta ag na meánscoileanna san ardeaglais, agus rinneadh An Chomaoineach Naofa a cheiliúradh uair sa mhí i séipéal na Maighdine Muire.

Thug na Déin a raibh aithne agam féin orthu, John Paterson (1989-2004), Desmond Harman (2004-2007) agus Dermot Dunne (2008-) an-tacaíocht d'imeachtaí Gaeilge san ardeaglais thar na blianta. Agus ní féidir gan Dáithí Ó Maolchoille, crann taca mór na Gaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann le blianta fada, agus é fós ag obair ar son na teanga, a lua in aon trácht ar stair na Gaeilge in Ardteampall Chríost.

D'ullmhaigh baill de chór na hardeaglaise leaganacha nua ceoil de na cantaicí Magnificat agus Nunc Dimittis i Gaeilge agus cuireadh i láthair iad ag seirbhísí d'Urnaí na Nóna.

Thug Desmond Harman a thacaíocht láidir phearsanta do Scoil Samhraidh na hAthbheochana Ceiltí, comh-thionscnamh dátheangach idir Ardteampall Chríost agus Áras Éanna (ionad ealaíona ar Inis Oírr) in 2006, agus imeachtaí na scoile ar siúl sa dá áit. Go deimhin, thaisteal sé féin amach chuig an oileán, agus bhaint sé an-sult as na léachtaí, na turais agus an ceol. Arís, in 2007, bhí sé an-sásta nuair a reáchtáladh féile speisialta dátheangach maidir le Naomh Colmcille, Colmcille @ Christ Church, san ardeaglais; féile ceoil agus léachtaí a thug le chéile cainteoirí agus ceoltóirí ó Albain agus ó Éirinn, mar aon le taispeántas ealaíne, agus an Ghaeilge agus Gàidhlig na hAlban le cloisteáil timpeall na háite.

Ó 2007 i leith, is anseo atá a 'sheoladh baile' ag Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise, agus reáchtáltar na cruinnithe coiste agus na cruinnithe cinn bhliana anseo, le caoinchead an Déin. Chuir an Déan Dermot Dunne tús leis an nós focail fáilte a rá i nGaeilge ag tús sheirbhís na hEocairiste gach Domhnach. Bhí seisiún de 'bhlaiseadh na Gaeilge' againn sa tseomra caibidle i 2012, gloine fíona curtha ar fáil don slua, agus muid ag foghlaim frásaí agus amhráin. I 2013, seoladh leagan nua speisialta dátheangach de leabhar seirbhíse 'An Chomaoineach Naofa agus seirbhísí eile' le linn siompóisiam san ardeaglais ag a raibh

cuairteoirí ón mBreatain Bheag i láthair. In 2014, seoladh beatháisnéis faoi Dhónal Caird, iar-Ardeaspag Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus chan an cór (faoi stiúir Ian Keatley) seirbhís speisalta Ghaeilge d'Urnaí na Nóna. Ag an ócaid chéanna, chun 100 bliain an Chumainn a cheiliúradh, reáchtáladh taispeántas painéil a thug léargas dúinn ar stair na Gaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann. In 2019, sheol an pearsa teilifíse Bibi Baskin leagan dátheangach nua den leabhar 'An Ghaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann' le Risteard Giltrap. Agus in 2023, ceiliúradh an Eocairist i nGaeilge le haghaidh na Féile Bríde, an tUrr Gary Hastings i mbun na seirbhíse, agus Cór Chúil Aodha ag canadh.

Cuimhneoimis orthu siúd a thug an-tacaíocht don Gaeilge (nó d'imeachtai dátheangacha) san ardeaglais le blianta beaga anuas agus atá anois ar shlí na fírinne: Risteard Ó Glaisne, Tom Salmon, John Paterson, Desmond Harman, Leaslaoi Ó Briain, Olive Uí Mhaolchoille, Valerie Jones, Eileen McCracken, Dónal Caird, Nicola Gordon Bowe, Ian Keatley agus neart daoine eile. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uaisle uile.

Gura fada buan an Ghaeilge in Ardteampall Chríost!

Seoladh preasa do Scoil Samhraidh na hAthbheochana Ceiltí, 2006, (ó chlé):
An Dr Nicola Gordon Bowe (nach maireann), An Dr Kenneth Milne, Deirdre Ní Chinnéide,
An Déan Desmond Harman (nach maireann) agus Aonghus Dwane.

SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Front cover – Mind's eye view of Dublin (Sam Boal); p.7 Blue cathedral (Nicole Lanphier); p.13 Scaffolded chapterhouse (SK); p.14 Dean's vicar & co. (Celia Dunne), Helen Martin (Sarah Martin); p.15 Ian Keatley & Anthea Seager (Victor Coe); p.16 Henson's *StoryTeller* (IMDB), Bazin's St Margaret (Wikimedia); p.17 *Bertha's daughters* (L Ll-MacD); p.18 J.B. Leslie (RCB Library Photographic Collection), *Clergy of Dublin & Glendalough* (Ulster Historical Foundation); p.19 St Michael's (White, *Disestablishment 1870–1970: exhibition* (NGI, 1970), from Roy Byrne); p.20 Shenton family (SK); p.21 Crosthwaite *Obits & martyrology* (archive.org); p.22 Finlayson, *Inscriptions* (HathiTrust); p.23 Darren Twyford & restored chapterhouse (SK); p.24 Susanne Reid & Colm Foley (Conor Healy of Coalesce); p.25 Crypt shop (SK); p.26 Mind's eye view (Sam Boal); p.27 June cathedral choir concert (Lynn Glanville); p.28 Choir at Southwark (James Short); David Yau & Iseult Law in York Minster (Tom Little); p.29 York Minster Camera Cantorum (SK); Choir in York Minster from organ loft (James Short); p.30 Nave organ console in York (TL); p.31 James Short (SK); 12-inch vinyl (Brian Duggan); p.32 Jack Oades (Susan Pilcher); Arthur Greene (TL); Peter Whyte (Brian Redmond, Roscrea); p.33 Iseult Law (Luca Fornasier); Matthew Thomson (Lawrence Tao); p.34 Ella Hunter (Ciara Corrigan-Margetts); Caitríona Fitzmaurice (unknown student at fourth-year ball); p.35 Twm Watkins & community choir (Tristan Hutchinson, Bellow Creative); p.36 Victor Coe (Helen Thomas); p.37 Aimee Kearney (Alan Betson); Eilís Dexter (Ruth Medjber / Ruthless imagery); Pierce Cullen (Andrew Watchorn); p.39 Ian Keatley in 2015 (Victor Coe's collection); p.41 Ian Keatley photo collage by TL (SK); p.42 Culture Night belfry (Conor Daly); p.43 Teaching ringing (Susanna Nocchi); Taylor cup (Donna Lawless); p.45 Clockwise: Blessington (Una Caulfield); Andrew Nolan & Nicole Lanphier (Kevin Lynch); Kevin & Nicole (NL); Bell chamber (NL); p.46 Paper-making workshop (Ruth Kenny); p.47 Education posters (Sophie Gough); Lost alleys tour (Kelly Tavolassi); p.48 Kelly's Portuguese tour (Enio Trzeciak Marques); Brazilian & Portuguese embassies (Revd Victor Ilechukwu); p.49 Thames boat trip (Kelly Tavolassi); Westminster abbey (Áine Cummins); Canterbury stained glass (unknown visitor); p.50 Jeremy Dibble (SK); p.51 Stanford biography (Boydell & Brewer); p.52 *Monasticism in Ireland* (Four Courts Press) and *Latin lives of St Laurence* (FCP); p.53 Ruins of St Begnet's, Dalkey (Jean Finch); p.54 *George Edmund Street* (Liverpool University Press for Historic England); p.55 *Signa manualia* of John Mulghan (RCB C6/1/2, f.62); p.57 Arms of Christ Church (SK); p.58 Vermeer (© National Gallery of Ireland 4535, Beit Collection); p. 59 R.P. Stewart (SK); p.60 Turlough O'Donnell & font (Jean Finch); p.61 St Audoen's & memorials (JF); p.62 Archer, tau cross & apothecary (JF); p.63 Plan of St Mary's (Thomas Drew from *Remains of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin* (Dublin 1887), between 4-5, from *Irish Times*, 12 August 1886); p.64 St Mary's chapter house (SK); p.65 Community of St Laurence (SK); crypt guests (Gabrielle Brocklesby); p.67 Celtic Revival summer school (Garrett Casey); p.68 Silhouette of nave and Dublinia (Gary Branigan); Back cover – Archbishops Naoum & Jackson (Lynn Glanville).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN
Personnel

BISHOP

Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough:
The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson (2011)

CHAPTER

Dignitaries

Dean: The Very Revd Dermot P.M. Dunne (2008)
Precentor: The Revd Canon Roy H. Byrne (2017)
Chancellor: The Revd Canon David Mungavin (2015)
Treasurer: The Revd Canon Tom O'Brien (2024)
Archdeacon of Dublin: The Venerable David A. Pierpoint (2004)
Archdeacon of Glendalough: The Venerable Ross Styles (2024)

CANONS

Prebendary of St Michael's: The Revd Canon Mark Gardner (2008)
Prebendary of St Michan's: The Revd Canon Wm Deverell (2013)
Prebendary of St John's: The Revd Canon David Gillespie (2014)
Fourth Canon: The Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (2015)
Fifth Canon: The Revd Canon Adrienne Galligan (2015)
Sixth Canon: The Revd Canon Sonia Gyles (2017)
Seventh Canon: The Revd Canon Leonard Ruddock (2018)
Eighth Canon: The Revd Canon Andrew McCroskery (2019)
Ninth Canon: The Revd Canon Lesley Robinson (2021)
Tenth Canon: he Revd Canon Professor Anne Lodge (2024)
Eleventh Canon: Canon Paul Arbuthnot (2025)
Twelfth Canon: The Revd Suzanne Harris (2025)

Ecumenical Canons

Father Tom Layden, S.J. (2020)
Metropolitan Archbishop Josef, Romanian Orthodox
archbishop of western and central Europe (2024)

Lay Canons

Professor Jim Lucey (2017), Inspector of Mental Health Services
Annie Fletcher, Director of Irish Museum of Modern Art (2024)

CLERGY

Dean's Vicar & Chapter Clerk: The Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff (2024)
Priest Scholar: The Revd Canon Professor Anne Lodge (2021)
Parish Vicar: The Venerable David Pierpoint (1995)
Honorary Assistant Clergy: The Revd Kalmer Kesküla (2007)
Chaplain: The Revd Martin Hilliard (2023)

LAY CHAPLAINS

Mr Bernard V.A.J. Woods (2008), Diocesan Lay Reader
Mr James Kilbey (2013), Diocesan Lay Reader
Dr David Williams (2016), Diocesan Lay Reader (Mondays)
Mr Bert Van Embden (2018), Diocesan Lay Reader (Mondays)
Dr Margaret Daly Denton (2018) (Fridays)

MUSIC

Director of Music: Mr Tom Little (2020), FRCO
Organist & Assistant Director of Music: Mr James Short (2022), FRCO
Music Department: Mr Tomos Watkins (2023)

CHOIR

Decani	*Cantoris*
Sopranos	
Ms Clare O'Brien (2014)	Dr Sue Hemmens (1982)
Ms Hannah Barrett (2021)	Ms Tracy Nagle (2015)
Ms Holly Woods (2022)	Ms Judith Lyons (2020)
Ms Iseult Law (2024)	Ms Caitríona Fitzmaurice (2024)
Altos	
Mrs Emma-Jane Stoker-Phelan (2016)	Ms Laura-Joy Copeland (2022)
Ms Ella Hunter (2024), Choral Scholar	Ms Laura Howes (2023), Choral Scholar
Tenors	
Mr Jacek Wislocki (2016)	Dr Stuart Kinsella (2020)
Dr Matthew Thomson (2024)	Mr David Yau (2023)
Basses	
Mr Garrett Farrell (2021)	Mr Michael McCartan (2020)
Mr Tomos 'Twm' Watkins (2021)	Mr Louis O'Carroll (2023)

PAST CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Chair: Ms Anthea Seager (2024)
Secretary: Judy Pomeroy (2025)
Treasurer: Stephen Perry (2025)
Comunications: Lesley-Anne Carey (2025)
Media: Éanna McCriostal (2025)
Archives: Susan Hood (2025)

BELFRY

Ringing Master: Mr Ray Cregan (2021)
Steeple Keepers: Mr David Hogan (2015) & Mr Tony Reale (2005)

Christ Church Cathedral Society of Change Ringers
Chair: Ms Una Caulfield (2015)
Honorary Secretary: Mr Ray Cregan (2024)
Honorary Treasurer: Ms Una Caulfield (2024)

BOARD

Clerical Members (Jure officio)	*Lay Members (Elected by the Easter Vestry for the period 2023–6)*
The Very Revd D.P.M. Dunne, Dean	Mr Desmond Campbell
The Revd Canon Roy Byrne, Precentor	Mr Michael Denton
The Revd Canon David Mungavin, Chancellor	Mr Dermot Hore (Hon. Secretary)
(Elected by the Chapter for the period 2023–6)	Mr Gerry Kearney
The Revd Canon William R.H. Deverell	Mr James Kelly
The Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	Mr Andrew Lindsay
The Revd Canon Sonia Gyles	Mr Jim Loughran
The Revd Canon E.C. Lesley Robinson	Ms Lesley Vize
The Ven. Ross Styles, Archdeacon of Glendalough	*Honorary Members (in attendance, non-voting)*
	The Revd Canon Fr Tom Layden
	Mr Liam Byrne (Treasurer)

OFFICE

Chief Executive Officer: Ms Susanne Reid (2020)
Office Manager: Ms Erica Britnell (2024)
Personal Assistant to the Dean: Ms Elizabeth Oxley (2024)
Human Resources Manager: Ms Tara Nic Ghib (2024) for Ms Paula Hennessey (2022)
Cathedral Manager: Mr John Farrelly (2022)

TOURISM

Senior Tourism & Event Coordinator: Ms Shawn Talbot (2018)
Tourism, Events & Marketing Officer: Ms Sophie Gough (2018)
Retail Manager: Mr Raymond Scullion (2019)
Retail Assistant: Ms Una Lane (2023)

FABRIC

Surveyor of the Fabric: Mr Frank Keohane (2021)

EDUCATION & HERITAGE

Head of Learning & Interpretation: Dr Ruth Kenny (2015)
Hon. Keeper of the Archives: Dr Raymond Refaussé (2020)
Research Advisor: Dr Stuart Kinsella (2005)

VERGERS, WELCOME & EVENTS

Mr Andy O'Hare, Head Verger (2016) & Dean's Verger (2023)
Mr Daire Daly, Health & Safety Officer & Tour Guide (2010)
Mr Derry Mescal, Verger (2023)
The Revd Victor Ilechukwu, Verger (2023)
Mr Thomas Gilleran, Verger (2024)
Ms Charline Zachariades (2023), Welcome Desk Supervisor
Mr Tom O'Sullivan (2022), Senior Cathedral Assistant

THE COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

Co-wardens: Imad Hazboun & Matthew Zaradich
Secretary/Treasurer: Vivienne George

CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: (01) 6778099
Email: welcome@christchurch.ie
Website: www.christchurchcathedral.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cccdub
Twitter: www.twitter.com/cccdub
Instagram: www.instagram.com/christchurchdublin/

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

FRONT COVER: Detail of an imagined bird's-eye view of Dublin from the south-west centred on Christ Church by photographer and artist, Sam Boal, who also works on the cathedral events team (Sam Boal).

BACK COVER: Archbishop Hosam Naoum of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusaleum and Archbishop Michael Jackson praying for peace together in Christ Church on Wednesday 29 May 2024 (Lynn Glanville).